

Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

Purpose

To ensure the safety of patients and students and foster an optimal environment for student learning.

When is this policy applicable?

This policy applies to medical students involved in patient care as part of the MD curriculum

Who may supervise medical students?

1. Faculty physicians or residents/fellows supervised by faculty physicians
2. Licensed and board certified or board eligible non-faculty physicians approved by the clerkship/course director
3. Licensed healthcare providers when supervising an activity within the scope of their own practice

Levels of supervision

Students must be supervised at all times at one of the two following levels:

1. Direct supervision: supervisor is physically present with student and patient
2. Indirect supervision: supervisor is not physically present with student and patient but is present on the clinical site and immediately available to the student to provide direct supervision

Special Situations

1. Intimate exams: Students must be *directly supervised* by a clinician while performing an intimate exam. Intimate exams include genitourinary, rectal, and breast exams.
2. Procedures: The supervising physician is responsible for determining the level of supervision that is required based on the student's competency and the procedure being performed.

Regardless of the level of supervision, the supervising clinician must evaluate all patients seen by students before the patient leaves the healthcare setting.

Training of supervisors

Faculty physicians are responsible for all learning events in their environment, including events supervised and facilitated by non-physician healthcare providers and non-faculty physicians.

1. All supervising clinicians must be aware of and have access to this supervision policy and Emory's student mistreatment policy.

2. All faculty physicians responsible for supervising a student during a given clerkship/course must be aware of MD course objectives. Clerkship/course directors are responsible for disseminating this information.

Policy Implementation

1. Clerkship/course directors are responsible for ensuring access to aforementioned policies.
2. Clerkship/course directors must ensure students are aware of how to report violations of this policy.

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