



Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science
"A Private University with a Public Mission"

SUPERVISION OF CLINICAL EXPERIENCES POLICY

POLICY: # 319.3

Supersedes: 319.3 version 6/22/21

Issuing Officer: Dean, College of Medicine
Responsible Office: Office of Medical Education
Effective Date: 9/24/24
Next Review Date: 9/24/27

I. PURPOSE:

The Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) has established standards regarding the requirement of medical schools ensuring that medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are appropriately supervised at all times in order to ensure patient and student safety, that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to the student's level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.

II. POLICY STATEMENT:

Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science (CDU) College of Medicine (COM) MD Program requires all medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care to be appropriately supervised at all times to ensure patient and student safety.

III. POLICY:

Educational Leadership Expectation

- *Faculty (or Senior Resident as Teacher) must be on-site (e.g., unless otherwise directed) during student training times.*
- *The level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his/her level of training, competence, and demonstrated ability.*
- *All supervising health professionals must operate within their scope of practice when undertaking direct supervision and indirect supervision of medical students.*

- *The students and health professionals will be informed by course and clerkship directors of the expectations for their participation and supervision in patient care.*
- *Students are to be provided with rapid, reliable systems for communicating with supervising health professionals.*
- *Course and clerkship directors are responsible for assigning students to health professionals for all patient care experiences and for ensuring that health professionals and students are notified of these assignments.*
- *In situations where medical students interact directly with non-physician care providers (e.g., RN, PA) who are not the supervising health professional, then the supervising health professional and/or course or clerkship director is responsible for ensuring that the non-physician care provider is either appropriately credentialed or functioning under the supervision of a credentialed faculty member and is performing tasks that are within his/her scope of practice. The attending faculty member is ultimately responsible for the integrity of information and/or procedures conducted during the clinical service.*
- *Health professionals will model standards for professional behavior in interactions with patients, learners, staff, and all other individuals on the health care team.*
- *Patient safety is the responsibility of all members of the health care team, including medical students. Any individual who is concerned about the level of supervision that a student is receiving or for a patient's safety should address their concerns as soon as possible with the health professional and/or course or clerkship director.*

Student Expectations

- *Students are expected to demonstrate self-awareness of their level of competence and only perform clinical activities that are appropriate for their level of skill and/or training.*
- *Students are responsible for informing clinical supervisors if they need additional training or assistance prior to and/or while performing a clinical activity.*
- *Students must be directly or indirectly supervised while performing activities in the clinical learning environment and are responsible for reporting any concerns regarding a lack of adequate supervision.*

Mechanisms for Reporting Concerns

- *Students who have concerns about the adequacy of supervision they are receiving in a clinical learning environment should address their concerns with their immediate supervisor, course/clerkship director, or Office of Medical Education leadership.*
- *Students will be asked at the end of each course or clerkship to complete an evaluation where they will be asked if they were appropriately supervised at all times to ensure their safety and the safety of their patients. The course or clerkship director will be notified of any alerts in the evaluation system to follow-up or investigate.*
- *Students can report concerns with supervision to the clerkship manager at clerkshipreports@cdrewu.edu. These concerns will be reviewed by the Director of OME who will notify the appropriate administrative faculty.*
- *Students who wish to report the concern(s) anonymously may submit them utilizing the "Report a Concern" button on the Learning Environment and Mistreatment Webpage. <https://www.cdrewu.edu/academics/program/cdumd/student-reporting/>*

Responses to Allegations of Inadequate Supervision

All items reported through the mechanisms above will be routed to the Learning Environment Oversight Committee (LEO) for review and response.

IV. APPLICABILITY:

The faculty, students, and staff of the CDU COM are responsible for knowing this policy and its procedures.

V. DEFINITIONS:

- **Health Professional:** Include all CDU SOM faculty members, resident and fellow physicians, who teach, facilitate, and/or precept medical students in the clinical setting.
- **Direct supervision:** The health professional is present in the room with the student and patient during the encounter. Direct observation requirements for health professionals are described in the **SOM Direct Observation Policy**.
- **Indirect Supervision:** The health professional is present at the patient care facility (e.g., hospital, clinic) and is immediately available to provide direct supervision when needed.
- **Senior Resident** = resident in last year of training or chief.
- **Educational Policy and Curriculum Committee (EPCC)** is the committee charged to represent the faculty to oversee the medical education program as a whole and has responsibility for the overall design, management, integration, evaluation, and enhancement of a coherent and coordinated medical curriculum.

VI. RELATED POLICIES:

- School of Medicine Direct Observation Policy
- Student Mistreatment and Learning Environment Policy

VII. RELATED LINKS:

LCME Standards, Publications, & Notification [Forms](#)

VIII. POLICY HISTORY:

Review Dates:	Change Description:
6/22/21	New policy approved by the EPCC.
9/24/24	Policy updated to include expectations. Reviewed by the Pre-Clerkship Subcommittee (9/23/24) and the Clerkship Subcommittee (9/18/24). Approved with changes by the EPCC on (9/24/24).