POLICY NAME: Medical Student Roles and Supervision  
Responsible Party: Office of Medical Education  
Applies To CMED: Faculty, Students, Residents  
Approval Date: 11/28/2018  

PURPOSE:  
To provide guidelines for the supervision of medical students participating in official clinical rotations with members of the medical staff who hold approved clinical privileges at a College of Medicine affiliated clinical site (“the Facility”).  

DEFINITIONS:  
The word ‘should’ implies that limited, reasonable exceptions can be made.  
The word ‘must’ implies that deviation is not permitted.  

Levels of Supervision for Medical Students:  
a. Direct Supervision: the supervising physician or his/her designee is physically present with the student and patient.  
b. Indirect Supervision with Direct Supervision Immediately Available: the supervising physician or his/her designee is physically within the hospital or other site of patient care, and is immediately available to provide Direct Supervision.  

POLICY STATEMENT:  
College of Medicine students will have appropriate clinical supervision while participating in required and elective clerkships.  

Supervision of Medical Students:  
Qualified physicians, residents, or advanced practice providers of the Facility shall engage in the teaching and clinical supervision of students. Supervising physicians and preceptors must all be members in good standing of the Facility’s medical staff authorized to supervise and/or provide resources for medical students. The supervising physician must be appointed to the faculty of the Central Michigan University College of Medicine, have completed faculty development explaining the details of the curriculum, and be aware of the medical student learning
**objectives.** Upper and intermediate level residents, and qualified Advanced Practice Providers (Physician Assistant - PA, Nurse Practitioner - NP, and Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist - CRNA) may supervise students as a delegated responsibility from the supervising physician or preceptor. This does not waive the supervising physician’s responsibility for the student.

Medical students, defined as students actively enrolled in the CMU College of Medicine as candidates for the MD degree and participating in approved clinical rotations, will be directly responsible to and supervised by designated clinical supervisor(s) during each assignment.

The Facility is responsible, consistent with applicable regulations and industry standards, for assuring adequate medical staff supervision of CMU’s medical students while assigned to the Facility. Faculty responsible for teaching and/or supervising CMU students must have faculty appointments with the College of Medicine. All students shall report to and be responsible to College of Medicine faculty members. Any direct contact between a student and a patient of the Facility shall be under the supervision of a member of the College of Medicine faculty or their designee.

Medical students will have the status of learners at the Facility. They are not to replace Facility staff, and are not to render independent patient care and/or service except as such are identified for educational value as a part of the faculty-planned educational program and unless such patient care and/or service are under the supervision of a College of Medicine faculty member.

**Student Roles**

**Medical Students Years One (1) and Two (2):**

- **Must** be under the supervision (direct or indirect supervision with direct supervision immediately available as defined by this policy) of a physician who is a member of the Facility’s Medical Staff at all times. As noted above, student supervision may be delegated to an intermediate or upper level resident, or an advanced practice provider (NP, PA, CRNA).
- **May** participate in physical exam, critical data analysis and disposition, history taking and have access to medical records.
- **May** observe in surgery with appropriate consent from the patient and surgeon of record.
- **May not** document in the patient medical record
- **May not** write or give verbal orders.

**Medical Students Years Three (3) and Four (4):**

- **May** participate in care and management of the patient, including invasive and noninvasive procedures, under the supervision of the supervising physician or another qualified medical care professional to whom that supervision has been assigned at all times with patient permission.
- **May** assist in procedures when the attending physician agrees that the student has achieved the required level of competence and permission is granted by the patient.
- **May** document in the medical record with the permission of the supervising physician
• **Third year (MS3) students may not** call consults to other physicians but may, under the direction of their supervising physician, call non-physician consults and schedule appointments.

• **Fourth year (MS4) students may**, under direct supervision, call consults to other physicians.

• **May not** write orders or give verbal orders

**Allied Health Professionals, Nursing and Pharmacy:**

It is important to our students’ education that they receive exposure to and opportunities to work with allied health, nursing and pharmacy professionals. Allied health includes, but is not limited to, athletic training, audiology, clinical laboratory science, medical coding, clinical psychology, EMT/paramedic, physical therapy, occupational therapy, optometry, sonography, speech-language pathology, respiratory therapy, and social work. When a medical student is participating in a non-hospital affiliated practice in which allied health professionals, nurses, or pharmacists are present, it is the responsibility of the supervising physician to assure that these providers are appropriately credentialed and capable of medical student supervision **within their scope of practice**. When a medical student is participating in an affiliate hospital-based experience, it is assumed that all such providers employed are appropriately credentialed by the affiliate hospital and capable of medical student supervision **within their scope of practice**.

**RELATED POLICIES:**

• [Supervision of Medical Student Documentation](#)

*The College of Medicine and CMU Partners reserve the right to make exceptions, modify or eliminate this policy and or its content. This document supersedes all previous policies, procedures or guidelines relative to this subject.*

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<th>Policy History</th>
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<td>4/21/2015</td>
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