
POLICY NAME: School-Requested Mental Health Evaluation

Responsible Party: Office of Student Affairs

Applies To CMED: Faculty Students Residents Staff Administration

Approval Date: 5/1/2020

Policy Procedure

PURPOSE:

The College of Medicine Technical Standard of Professionalism states that all students must maintain memory, rational thought, problem solving ability, and collegiality, while exhibiting compassion and sound judgement when functioning in all academic and clinical environments. The purpose of a school-requested mental health evaluation is to ascertain whether a student poses an imminent danger to self or others.

PROCEDURES:

Any individual concerned about a student who displays the signs described below should first address these issues with the associate dean for student affairs. If the associate dean of student affairs is concerned about a student's mental health, regardless of whether the student exhibits the specific signs below, the student will be encouraged to seek mental health evaluation and treatment and will be given resources to seek assistance as the students best engage in therapy when they seek treatment voluntarily. If a student does not initiate services, a school-requested basic mental health evaluation may be required and the CMED associate dean for student affairs will contact mental health specialists to determine appropriate evaluation and treatment resources to be recommended to the student.

Possible reasons for considering a CMED-requested evaluation from mental health are below (this list is for illustrative purposes and is not exhaustive):

Student exhibits signs of possible **mental health condition**, including but not limited to:

- Seems incapable of taking care of basic needs (not eating or sleeping or maintaining hygiene)
- Seems out of touch with reality
- Exhibits signs of possible **eating disorder**
- Exhibits signs of substance abuse/misuse
- Despite clear evidence of problem, refuses assistance or referrals for treatment

Student exhibits signs of possible **danger to self**, including but not limited to:

- Writes a suicide note

- Talks about wanting to die or kill self
- Talks about being a burden to others, feeling hopeless, or feeling trapped
- Withdraws or socially isolates
- Displays extreme mood swings
- Engages in self-harming behavior (e.g., cuts or burns self, takes overdose)

Student exhibits signs of being a **danger to others/disruptive to the community**, including but not limited to:

- Engages in stalking behavior
- Threatens damage to or intentionally damages property
- Displays extreme mood swings
- Isolates socially (i.e., not responding to phone calls or emails)
- Makes concerning statement on social media sites
- Demonstrates disruptive classroom behaviors (i.e., not responding to social cues, intimidating other students or instructor)
- Other students report complaints about identified student’s behavior

If a student presents an imminent danger to self or others, the mental health provider, associate dean for student affairs, or senior associate dean will take action as appropriate under the circumstances to mitigate the danger, including notification of local police, mental health agencies, the student’s emergency contact, and/or others as necessary.

The associate dean of student affairs will notify the student in writing of the health and safety reason for the school-requested evaluation. In addition, the student will be required to complete a release authorizing the mental health provider to communicate with the school about the following: student’s attendance, results of evaluation, and general treatment recommendations and projected timeline needed. The student will be responsible for scheduling the school-requested evaluation with the mental health provider.

Students have the right to refuse to participate in CMED school-requested mental health evaluations and treatments, or to allow CMED access to the results and treatment recommendations from this evaluation.

Failure of the student to complete the school-requested mental health evaluation and treatment and/or failure to allow CMED access to relevant mental health information means CMED has no option but to proceed based solely on the student’s behavior in relation to academic and technical standards. The student may then go before the Student Performance and Conduct Committee.

The College of Medicine reserves 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.

Policy History	
5/1/2020	Initial approval by Administration