UNIVERSITY OF South Carolina
School of Medicine Greenville

Policy Title

Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Phase Medical Student Supervision

Identifier

USCSOMG – ACAF – 3.08

Prepared by: Assistant Dean for Clerkship and Post Clerkship Education	
Reviewed by: Clerkship and Post-Clerkship Subcommittee	Reviewed Date:
Approved by: Curriculum Committee	Approved Date:
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LCME Standards

9.2 – Clinical Supervision of Medical Students
4.2 – Faculty Appointments

Scope

University of South Carolina (USC) School of Medicine Greenville students and faculty

Policy Statement

A supervising health professional, with a faculty appointment, is required to supervise medical students in clinical learning environments at a supervision level of "indirect supervision with direct supervision immediately available" or higher.

Reason for Policy

The LCME expects that a medical school ensures that medical student's supervision of medical student learning experiences is provided throughout required clerkships by members of the school's faculty. A medical school ensures 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 his or her level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.

Definitions

- **Supervising health professional:** An attending physician or advanced practice providers with a faculty appointment; a resident or fellow physician training in a graduate medical education program at, or affiliated with, the USC School of Medicine Greenville.

- **Direct Supervision:** the supervising health professional is physically present with the medical student and patient (Level 1).

- **Indirect Supervision with direct supervision immediately available:** the supervising health professional is physically within the hospital or other site of patient care and is immediately available to provide direct supervision (Level 2).

Procedures

- Medical students are not licensed and cannot provide unsupervised patient care. Clinical decisions and orders are never created or enacted by medical students without a supervising health professionals' input and approval. A supervising health professional has the medical and legal responsibility for patient care at all times.
- A supervising health professional is required to supervise medical students in clinical learning environments at a supervision level of "indirect supervision with direct supervision immediately available" or higher.
- The supervising health professional will determine the appropriate level of supervision by taking into account the clinical site policies; complexity of the situation or procedure; risk for adverse events; and the medical student's level of training, demonstrated competence, maturity, and responsibility.
- The course director determines the patient encounters and procedures for which medical student supervision is provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed healthcare providers. The level of responsibility delegated to a medical student is determined by the Clerkship and Post Clerkship subcommittee, which considers the program learning objectives
- Individuals who have experienced or witnessed a lapse in medical student supervision must report the incident to the course director. Students have the opportunity to also anonymously report lapses in medical student supervision in the course evaluation or by way of an online form.

Monitoring

Responses to the course and clerkship evaluations regarding supervision are centrally monitored by the Office for IDEAS. These reports are reviewed on an annual basis by the Curriculum Committee.

The Course Director is responsible for investigating student concerns regarding supervision and following up with the supervising health professional.

Sanctions

Repeated lapses by an individual or multiple lapses of supervision across a course are brought to the attention of the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, who is responsible for meeting with the Vice Chair for Academics and/or the Chair of the Department. The Department Chair is responsible for any intervention, remediation, or staffing changes necessary to correct the situation.

Additional Contacts

Office for Medical Education

Related Information

USC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

History

Date of Change	Change

March 2027	Updated title due to policy splitting
March 2025	Revised to strengthen the language; provide clarity.
July 2024	Updates to branding and titles, formal approval not required.
July 2020	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI