



## Policy Title

Medical Student Supervision

## Identifier

UofSCSOMG – ACAF – 3.08

<b>Prepared by:</b> Office for Academic Affairs	
<b>Reviewed by:</b> Curriculum Committee	<b>Review Date:</b> 10/08/2020
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## LCME Standards

9.2 – Faculty Appointment

9.3 – Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

## Scope

University of South Carolina (UofSC) 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 nurse practitioner with a faculty appointment; a resident or fellow physician training in a graduate medical education program at, or affiliated with, the UofSC 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/clerkship director determines the patient encounters and procedures for which medical student supervision may be provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed healthcare providers. The level of responsibility delegated to a medical student is determined by the M3/M4 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/clerkship director. Students may also anonymously report lapses in medical student supervision in the course evaluation.

## Monitoring

Responses to the course and clerkship evaluations regarding supervision are centrally monitored by the Office for Academic Affairs and are reported in the End of M3 Year Report and End of M4 Year Report. These reports are reviewed on an annual basis by the Curriculum Committee.

The Clerkship 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 clerkship or elective are brought to the attention of the Associate Dean for Curriculum 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 Academic Affairs

## Related Information

UofSC School of Medicine Greenville Student Handbook

## History

<b>Date of Change</b>	<b>Change</b>
July 2020	Policy formalized into standardized template, LCME CQI