

Policy Title:
Supervision of Medical Students in Clinical Learning Situations

Background:

The University of New Mexico School of Medicine and its Curriculum Committee recognize that students in clinical learning situations must be appropriately supervised at all times in order to promote safe patient care and the appropriate development of students' clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes. Faculty and residents are prepared for their roles as educators, and are aware of the educational program objectives and the level and limitations of medical student ability. All medical students perform medical activities within their scope of practice and must seek assistance if faced with a medical circumstance that is beyond their skill, comfort level, or may impact upon student or patient safety.

Policy:

Supervising Physician Definition

- An attending physician employed by the School of Medicine
- A community physician with an approved volunteer faculty appointment at the School of Medicine
- A resident or fellow physician training in a graduate medical education program sponsored by or affiliated with the School of Medicine.

Other Supervisors

When a medical student is participating in a practice setting in which non-physician healthcare providers are present and providing supervision as delegated by the Supervising Physician, it is the responsibility of the Supervising Physician to assure that the non-physician providers are appropriately credentialed and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

Supervision Levels

1. Supervising Physician Present: The Supervising Physician is physically present with the medical student and the patient and is prepared to take over the provision of patient care if/as needed.
2. Supervising Physician Available (in house or on-call): The Supervising Physician is reachable and immediately available to provide direct supervision if/as needed.

Types of Supervision

1. Clinical Supervision

- In all clinical settings (inpatient hospital, operating/procedure rooms, reading rooms (e.g., Radiology), emergency rooms, delivery rooms, outpatient clinics or home visits), medical students will be directly supervised with the Supervising Physician present or with the Supervising Physician available.
- The degree of supervision (direct supervision with Supervising Physician present or available) will take into account the complexity and the urgency of the case and the demonstrated competence, maturity, responsibility, and safety of the student in order to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient.
- Supervising Physicians will identify those patients for whom initial medical student supervision may be provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed non-physician healthcare providers.
- Medical Students, in the course of their educational curriculum, may take patient histories and perform complete physical examinations.
- MS 3 and MS 4 students may document services in the electronic health record (EHR); however, the Supervising Physician may only reference medical student documentation of an Evaluation/Management service that is related to the review of Systems (ROS) and/or Past

History, Family History, and/or Social History (PFSH). The Supervising Physician, fellow or resident physician must verify and re-document the history of present illness and perform and document the physical examination and medical decision making activities (e.g., assessment and plan) of the service.

- The Supervising Physician will review medical student documentation and provide feedback for educational purposes.
- Clinical decisions and orders are never formulated or enacted by medical students without a Supervising Physician's input/approval.
- All on-call experiences in which medical students participate are subject to the supervision rules described above.

2. Procedure Supervision

- Medical students may be assigned and directed to provide additional patient care services under the direct supervision of a Supervising Physician.
- A Supervising Physician is required to directly supervise (physician present) all procedures (clinical, in-patient bedside, emergency department, and/or operating room) in which a medical student is involved.
- The Supervising Physician may delegate supervision to an appropriate resident physician, fellow physician or non-physician provider.
- The Supervising Physician must have privileges or authorization to perform the procedure being supervised.

Responsible Office:	Undergraduate Medical Education
Approving Body:	SOM Curriculum Committee
Date of Revision:	11/1/13; 7/19/17
Scope:	Medical Students, Faculty