

Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

Purpose

The Pritzker School of Medicine is committed to fostering a positive and supportive learning environment for medical students when in the clinical setting while also maintaining the utmost level of safety for both patients and medical students.

Overview

It is necessary to document the appropriate level of clinical supervision required to uphold excellence in patient care and to ensure patient safety is a top priority, all while allowing medical students the practical experience required to excel in the clinical setting.

Related LCME Standards:

- 9.2 Faculty Appointments
- 9.3 Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

Principles

The Pritzker School of Medicine fully supports medical students in the clinical setting in order to foster their ability to provide patients outstanding clinical care. Faculty are to provide medical students with appropriate levels of supervision with incremental independence and deliver meaningful, timely feedback while also providing a safe, supportive, and positive learning environment.

Policy

Pritzker School of Medicine students will be supervised according to their level of training while engaging in patient care during all required and elective clinical activities:

1. Medical students are not permitted to independently provide care to patients. Medical students are expected to adhere to their scope of practice when participating in clinical care of patients.
2. Medical students may be supervised in the clinical setting by various providers including faculty, house-staff (residents and/or fellows) and other inter-professional providers who are acting within their scope of clinical practice.
3. Student supervision may be provided according to the defined ACGME levels of supervision including:
 - a. Direct supervision: the supervising individual is physically present with the student and the patient.
 - b. Indirect supervision with direct supervision immediately available: the supervising physician is immediately physically available within the hospital/clinic where care is being delivered and is available to provide direct supervision.

4. Medical students may not perform clinical procedures independently, without direct supervision.

Procedures

1. Supervising faculty, house-staff and inter-professional providers are required to independently verify student findings, including pertinent documentation, history, physical examination, ancillary data and assessment/plan.
2. The Dean for Medical Education is responsible for communicating pertinent and critical policies to the faculty, graduate medical education trainees and inter-professional providers on an annual basis to establish expectations for clinical supervision of medical students.
3. The clerkship or course director is responsible for communicating relevant policies and procedures related to supervision to faculty, house-staff, inter-professional providers and students participating in their curriculum, and for monitoring compliance with the policies and procedures.
4. The clerkship director or course director is responsible for communicating standard procedures by which students can report concerns regarding adequate and appropriate supervision. Procedures may include, but are not limited to, reporting mistreatment to Ombudsmen, any of the Pritzker faculty deans, relevant faculty members, or Executive Director of Medical School Education, and documenting concerns in course or clerkship evaluations at the end of course or clerkship.

Accountable Dean or Director: Dean for Medical Education, Dean of Students

Related Policies: Scope of Pritzker Student Practice by Stage of Training; CMS Documentation Provided by Students

Approval Date and Governing Body: December 13, 2019; Education Executive Committee