



# QUILLEN COLLEGE of MEDICINE

EAST TENNESSEE STATE UNIVERSITY

## Policy Name/Number: Clinical Supervision of Medical Students / MSEC-0617-19

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| <b>Policy Owner:</b> Ramsey McGowen, PhD / MSEC Chair (2013-2019); Ivy Click, EdD / MSEC Chair (2020-)   |   |
| <b>Committees, Departments, or Individuals Responsible for Implementation:</b> Course and Clerkship Directors  |   |
| <b>Original Approval Date/By:</b> 6/13/2017 / MSEC   | <b>Effective Date:</b> 9/14/2023                        |
| <b>Most Recent Revision Date:</b> 9/1/2023   | <b>Policy Advisory Committee Review Date:</b> 9/14/2023 |
| <b>Date of Next Review:</b> 9/14/2026<br><i>(All policies are reviewed by the Policy Advisory Committee every 3 years unless circumstances for an earlier review is identified.)</i> |   |

### (A) Policy Statement:

This policy outlines the requirements to be followed when supervising medical students. The college's goal is to promote safety in patient care and maximize students' development of skills, knowledge, and attitudes needed to enter the practice of medicine.

### (B) Purpose of Policy:

To ensure patient and student safety through appropriate supervision in clinical learning situations, and to ensure that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his or her level of training and/or experience. To ensure that activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising physician and allied health providers. This policy pertains to LCME Element 9.3.

### (C) Scope of Policy (applies to):

Applies to all medical students of the Quillen College of Medicine.

### (D) Policy Activities:

#### Definition of a Supervising Physician

A supervising physician is a faculty member of the College of Medicine. This includes full-time, part-time, volunteer, and adjunct faculty members. The supervising physician may delegate responsibility for supervision of medical students to appropriately qualified residents, fellows, physician assistants, or nurse practitioners provided that the ultimate responsibility remains that of the supervising physician.

#### Responsibility of the Supervising Physician

It is the responsibility of the supervising physician and/or site director to assure that the specifications of this policy are followed for all medical students of the Quillen College of Medicine.

Supervising physicians will only supervise students performing activities within the scope of the supervising physician's practice. Supervising physicians are responsible for ensuring that student participation in patient care is safe for both the patient (student qualified to perform activities) and the student (student protected from patient aggression and infectious risk).

#### Allied Healthcare Providers

When a medical student is participating in a setting in which allied healthcare providers are present, it is the

responsibility of the supervising physician to assure that the allied healthcare providers are appropriately qualified and capable of medical student supervision within the scope of their practice.

### Supervising Levels

Direct Supervision with 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.

Direct Supervision with Supervising Physician Available: The supervising physician is on duty and is available to provide direct supervision.

### Clinical Supervision

In the clinical setting (inpatient or outpatient), M1-M4 students will be directly supervised with the supervising physician present or with the supervising physician available based on the supervising physician's discretion.

Supervising physicians will identify those patients for whom medical student supervision may be provided by fellows, residents, and/or appropriately credentialed allied healthcare providers.

Medical students, in the course of their educational curriculum, may take patient histories and perform complete physical examinations.

Medical students may enter findings in the medical record of the patient with the approval of the patient's supervising physician, based on the clinical site's policies.

The supervising physician will perform a face-to-face evaluation of the patient; will review and verify medical student documentation in the electronic medical record; and, provide feedback for educational purposes. As applicable, the supervising physician will perform or re-perform the physical examination and medical decision-making components.

Clinical decisions and orders are never formulated or enacted by medical students without a supervising physician's input and approval.

All on-call experiences in which medical students participate are subject to the supervision rules described above.

### Procedure Supervision

A supervising physician is required to directly supervise (physician present or available) all procedures (clinical, inpatient bedside, emergency department, and/or operating room) in which a medical student is involved.

The degree of supervision (direct supervision with supervising physician present or available) will be based on the complexity of the procedure, potential for adverse effects, and the demonstrated competence, maturity and responsibility of each student in order to ensure the safety and comfort of both the patient and the student. This will be determined at the discretion of the supervising physician. The supervising physician must have privileges or authorization to perform the procedure being supervised.