
DEPARTMENT: Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine
NAME: Patient Care Supervision
POLICY NUMBER:
OWNER: Office of Clinical Education
EFFECTIVE DATE: 8/25

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Meritus School of Osteopathic Medicine (MSOM) medical students engaged in clinical learning activities involving patient care, as well as to all supervising physicians responsible for overseeing student clinical activities.

PURPOSE

To guide the activities of medical students and their supervisors in clinical learning situations to ensure the safety of both patients and students.

POLICY

A. Definitions:

- Direct Supervision: The supervising physician or other appropriately licensed health care professional is physically present with both the student and the patient, actively overseeing all aspects of patient care. When physical presence is not possible, direct supervision may also be provided through real-time telecommunication technology that allows the supervisor to concurrently observe, guide, and evaluate patient care activities.
- Indirect Supervision (with Direct Supervision Immediately Available): The supervising physician or other appropriately licensed health care professional is physically located within the hospital or clinical site and remains immediately available to provide direct supervision when needed.

B. MSOM shall ensure that all supervised activities are within the scope of practice of the supervising health care professional.

C. Students must have clear guidelines on their role in care and the limits of their scope of authority.

PROCEDURE

A. Assignment of Supervision

Each student will be assigned a supervising provider before beginning a clinical rotation. Supervisors must be credentialed and licensed within the scope of practice for their role. Orientation to supervision expectations shall be completed for both the supervisor and student. The Associate Dean for Clinical Education is responsible for ensuring compliance.

B. Student Authority and Responsibility

MSOM

Page **1** of **3**

Recusal

Students must identify themselves as medical students, disclose their level of training, and obtain patient consent before participation. Students holding other advanced degrees or doctorates may not introduce themselves as “Doctor” during rotations. Students must follow all HIPAA and institutional policies.

C. Supervisors should promote clinical interactions considering the student’s competence, patient acuity, and risk level. This includes activities such as collecting patient histories, performing physical examinations, and reviewing the medical record.

D. Monitoring

Any lapse in supervision must be reported immediately to the Office of Clinical Education; students may be temporarily removed from clinical activities pending review.

E. Review

Supervisors who identify unsafe or unprepared student performance may halt activities, provide feedback, and document the event. Repeated violations of supervision policy trigger formal review and potential disciplinary action. Supervising faculty or site administrators who fail to adhere to supervision requirements may be removed from teaching assignments.

RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Dean / Chief Academic Officer: Final Approval of all appointments.

B. Office of Clinical Education: Orientation of responsibilities, ensuring compliance, and record maintenance.

C. Regional Clinical Deans and Clerkship Directors: Oversight of clinical teaching and supervised activities.

REFERENCES

- Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) Accreditation Standards (2019)
- Student Handbook
- Faculty Handbook

REVISION HISTORY

Revision Date	Description of Change	Approved By
August 2025	Initial Policy Issuance	Dean and Chief Academic Officer
MSOM		Recusal

Page 2 of 3

