



# Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY

Policy Title: Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

Policy Number: CU.9.02.170808

Applies to: All medical students and faculty

Date: 8/8/2017

## 1.0 Policy Statement:

It is the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine (ESFCOM) policy to prohibit any medical student from performing any service for which a license, certificate of registration or other form of approval is required unless the service is performed under the direction of the supervising ESFCOM faculty. At the institutional level, medical student supervision requirements should be clearly articulated in the affiliation agreements.

## 2.0 Definitions

*Medical Student:* A student currently enrolled in the ESFCOM as a candidate for an MD degree.

*Appropriate Faculty:* A practicing clinician with current licensure and necessary certification for their area of practice who had been appointed on the faculty of ESFCOM and is tasked to supervise ESFCOM student(s) as a part of the curriculum in progression towards the MD degree.

*Supervision:*

*Direct supervision* – the supervising clinician is physically present with the medical student and patient.

*Indirect supervision:* (a) with direct supervision immediately available – the supervising clinician is physically within the hospital or other site of patient care, and is immediately available to provide direct supervision; (b) with direct supervision available – the supervising clinician is not physically present within the hospital or other site of patient care, but is immediately available by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities, and is available to provide direct supervision.

## 3.0 Responsibilities

Associate Deans of Clinical Education

Chair of the Department of Medical Education and Clinical Sciences

Vice Dean for Academic and Community Partnerships

## 4.0 Procedures

All medical students engaged in any patient care activities must be supervised by a member of ESFCOM faculty. It will be the responsibility of each supervising clinician to determine which learning experiences may be appropriately delegated to other members of their healthcare team and to ensure that these members providing such supervision are working within their scope of practice.

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- a. The Clinical Training Affiliation Agreements should:
  - i. Outline the roles and responsibilities of the ESFCOM medical education program and its clinical affiliates for teaching and supervision.
  - ii. Ensure an appropriate learning environment for medical students.
  - iii. Provide a consistent framework for medical students at the regional campuses.
- b. The Office of Faculty, Talent, Recognition and Enhancement provides a faculty development session to all faculty in preparation for the matriculation each class. This required faculty development session details the specific requirements for supervision of all medical students to ensure student/individual and patient safety.
- c. All stakeholders (faculty, patients and their families, residents, students and staff) are encouraged and mechanisms provided to express any concerns about the adequacy and availability of supervision in the learning environment. Concerns in clerkship years are to be sent to the clerkship directors who will forward to the Associate Deans of Clinical Education and the Chair of Medical Education and Clinical Sciences. If in pre-clerkship years, concerns will be sent to the Chair of Medical Education and Clinical Sciences. Further:
  - i. All complaints and concerns are to be reported immediately to the office of student affairs. The Vice Dean for Student and Faculty Experience investigates and administers appropriate corrective action in conjunction with the appropriate deans and chairs.
  - ii. End of course/clerkship evaluations include a specific question with respect to the expression of any concerns about the adequacy and availability of supervision.
  - iii. The Associate Dean of Accreditation, Assessment and Evaluation conducts an anonymous student survey as an annual tool to collect additional feedback and assess supervision.
  - iv. Reports from evaluations and surveys are sent to the course/clerkship directors, and/or other ESFCOM leadership for further action.
  - v. Reports are directed to ESFCOM administrators regarding concerns.

Associate Deans of Clinical Education are responsible for addressing concerns related to the adequacy and availability of supervision in the learning environment in the clerkship years and in any clinical preceptorship experience in the pre-clerkship years.

The Chair of the Department of Medical Education and Clinical Sciences and Associate Deans of Clinical Education are responsible for addressing concerns related to the adequacy and availability of supervision in the learning environment.

The Vice Dean for Academic and Community Partnerships is responsible for managing clinical training affiliation agreements and their requirements for the adequacy and availability of supervision in the learning environment.

## **5.0 Related Policies**

N/A

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## 6.0 **Key Search Words**

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| Clinical supervision |
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## 7.0 **Revision History**

| Original Approval | Policy number | Revision Date Approval |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------|
| 5/12/2016         | CU.09.02      | 8/8/2017               |

**Responsible Office:** Vice Dean for Academic and Community Partnerships

**Policy Contact:** Associate Dean for Curriculum

**Supersedes:** CU.09.02 Approved on 5/12/2016