

Policy Title: Physician Trainees as Teachers of Medical Students

Policy Number: EC.08.03.220104

Applies to: Washington State University's Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine MD program

Date: 01/04/2022

**1.0 Policy Statement:** It is the WSU College of Medicine policy that physician trainees (e.g., residents, fellows) and other qualified healthcare professionals who are designated as non-faculty instructors to teach and assess medical students in clinical rotations complete training in “teaching medical students in clinical services” or similar College of Medicine-approved curricula prior to engagement with students. This requirement that physician trainees and other qualified healthcare professionals who work with university medical students receive and complete prior curricular training should be clearly articulated in related College of Medicine program materials and institutional affiliation agreements.

**2.0 Definitions:**

**Non-faculty Instructors:** Any trainee or other healthcare professional not appointed to the WSU faculty who exercises significant influence on the instruction and assessment of WSU medical students.

*Medical student:* A student currently enrolled in the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine as a candidate for an MD degree.

*Physician trainee:* a physician designated as an Intern, Resident, Fellow or other trainee, who is enrolled at an ACGME-accredited graduate medical education program.

***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 Responsibility**

Associate Dean for Faculty Development

**4.0 Procedures**

All medical students engaged in the clinical phase of the curriculum must have opportunities to work with physician trainees. Prior to engaging with university medical students, the physician trainee must complete teaching medical students in clinical

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services curricula. It will be the responsibility of each supervising faculty clinician (i.e., attending) to determine which learning experiences may be appropriately delegated to physician trainees on their healthcare team and to ensure that these physician trainees or other qualified health care professionals providing such supervision are working within their scope of practice and have completed the required curricula, which will be provided by the Office of Faculty Development, in collaboration with other units and offices.

A. The Clinical Training Affiliation Agreements should:

- Outline the roles and responsibilities of the College of Medicine medical education program and its clinical affiliates for teaching and supervision by physician trainees.
- Describe the qualities of an appropriate learning environment that must be present to ensure opportunities for medical student learning
- Provide a mechanism by which each physician trainee working with the college's medical students will receive teaching university medical students in clinical services curricula.

B. The Office of Faculty Development ensures that development opportunities are available to all physician trainees (and other qualified healthcare professionals) to prepare them for their clinical supervision activities. Any required development sessions may be completed in person (one-on-one with a qualified College of Medicine faculty or staff member or in groups, such as workshops), via teleconference or online via Web-based training modules. Required sessions must prepare physician trainees to know:

- The students' expected learning outcomes for the rotation or learning activity where the physician trainee has delegated supervisory responsibilities,
- How to align learning expectations with the student's developmental level and explain these expectations,
- How to give formative feedback to support learning,
- How to complete required college assessments, and the specific requirements for supervision of all medical students to ensure student and patient safety.

C. All stakeholders (faculty, preceptors/supervisors, patients and their families, non-faculty healthcare professionals, students, and staff) are encouraged and mechanisms are provided to express any concerns about the adequacy and availability of supervision in the learning environment. Concerns in clerkship years should be communicated in person, by telephone, or in writing (email, etc.) to the appropriate clerkship director, the Associate Dean for Clinical Education (ADCE), the course director, the Office of Admissions and Student Affairs or via procedures appropriate to mistreatment outlined in the Student Mistreatment Policy (EC.03.01.170808). If validated, the concern should be forwarded to the ADCE for the campus involved, the Associate Dean for Assessment, Evaluation, and Accreditation, and as appropriate to the Associate Dean for Faculty Development.

The ADCEs are responsible for addressing concerns related to the adequacy and availability of physician trainee supervision in the learning environment in the clerkship years.

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The ADCEs, in collaboration with the Office of GME/CME and Community and Academic Partnerships are 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

[Student Mistreatment. EC.03.01.170808](#)

[Clinical Supervision of Medical Students CU.09.02.170808](#)

[Policy on Faculty-Student and Supervisor-Subordinate Relationships EP28](#)

[Policy Prohibiting Discrimination and Harassment EP15](#)

## 6.0 Key Search Words

Medical residents, physician trainees, healthcare professional, student mistreatment
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## 7.0 Revision History

Original Approval	Policy number	Revision Date Approval
01/04/2022	EC.08.03.220104	

**Responsible Office:** Office of Faculty Development

**Policy Contact:** Associate Dean for Faculty Development

**Supersedes:** Policy Approved on

Approved on 1/4/22