



## **Institutional Policy D5030: Student Supervision on Clinical Rotation**

Category: Learning Education  
Subject: Student Supervision on Clinical Rotation  
Effective Date: January 10, 2025  
Updated: May 15, 2025

### **1 Introduction**

This policy applies to required and elective courses where students interact with patients, and all required clerkships taught as part of the undergraduate medical education program.

### **2 Policy**

2.1 Course/clerkship directors are responsible for orienting students, supervising physicians, and non-physician healthcare providers (NPHP) who work with (but do not supervise) medical students to the provisions of this policy; setting and communicating course/clerkship-specific expectations regarding appropriate levels of supervision; and ensuring that supervising physicians adhere to the provisions of this policy.

2.2 Medical students are not licensed and cannot provide unsupervised patient care. Clinical decisions and orders are never created or enacted by medical students without a supervising physician's input and approval.

2.3 A supervising physician always has the medical and legal responsibility for patient care.

2.3.1 The supervising physician is required to personally, or through senior residents/fellows, supervise medical students in clinical learning environments at a minimum level of "indirect supervision with direct supervision immediately available" or higher.

2.3.2 The supervising physician will determine the appropriate level of supervision by considering the clinical site policies; complexity of the situation or procedure; risk for adverse events; and the medical student's level of training, demonstrated competence, maturity, and responsibility.

2.4 The course/clerkship director will determine which patient encounters and procedures may have supervision provided by fellows, or residents with indirect supervision by the attending physician or delegated senior residents/fellows.

2.5 Individuals who have experienced or witnessed an absence of/lapse in medical student supervision must report the incident to the course/clerkship director and directly to the assistant dean of clinical education or associate dean of clinical affairs at NCOM. Students may also anonymously report lapses in medical student supervision in the course evaluation or directly to the clinical education department.

Signed by:



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