



TITLE: Medical Student Roles and Responsibilities

DEPARTMENT: Center for Medical Education & Research	EFFECTIVE DATE: October 27, 2006
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Next Review: Reviewed annually by the Medical Education Course Director Oversight Committee and the Operations Oversight Committee at Sacred Heart Medical Center.

PURPOSE:

Third and fourth year medical student clerkships must integrate all that a student has learned into the basic skills needed to be a successful physician. Physicians are lifelong learners who must always reach for the next level. In order to reach that goal, students are expected to be present and participate fully in all activities that their attending physician and clerkship director assigns to them. These roles and responsibilities have been developed to allow medical students at Sacred Heart Medical Center to meet those objectives.

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

A medical student is not considered an independent practitioner, so may participate in patient care activities only under the direct guidance and supervision of the attending (teaching) physician and may participate only in patient care activities for which the attending is credentialed. A medical student may assist the physician with procedures in the operating room and other areas of the hospital or clinic to a degree compatible with training, competency and department policy. The attending physician maintains responsibility for the medical student's actions.

1. The Medical Student :
 - a. May make patient rounds, or see patients in the clinic, in conjunction or in coordination with the attending
 - b. May advise patients and their families as instructed by the attending.
 - c. May assist the attending with H&Ps, daily progress notes and discharge summaries.
 - d. May assist the attending in the Emergency Department.
 - e. May perform procedures only under the direct supervision of the attending.
 - f. May **not** obtain informed consent.

B. Medical Records and Documentation

1. The medical student may document in the patient paper record under the direct guidance of the attending as follows:
 - a. May write progress notes, H&Ps, and discharge summaries under the direct supervision of the physician, to be countersigned by the physician within 24 hours. The student may not dictate.
 - b. The attending is responsible for documentation made by the medical student, and must countersign all chart entries. If the attending is not in agreement with documentation made in the patient record by the medical student, the attending will make a notation to that effect in the chart. Under no circumstances shall an attending delete, modify, or destroy any part of the patient record when a medical student has made entries, even though those entries may be incorrect or the attending is not in agreement.
 - c. The documentation of an Evaluation and Management (E/M) service by a student that may be referred to by the attending physician is limited to documentation related to the review of systems and/or past family/social history. The attending physician may not refer to a student's documentation of physical exam findings or medical decision making in his or her personal note. If the medical student documents E/M services, the attending physician must verify and re-document the history of present illness as well as perform and re-document the physical exam and medical decision making activities of the service."
 - d. May NOT initiate orders or give verbal or telephone orders to hospital staff. May transcribe physician's verbal orders for drugs, treatments and diagnostic tests, to be countersigned by physician before implementation by hospital staff.
 - e. Must follow pertinent policies when documenting in the patient record, including use of abbreviations and compliance with the National Patient Safety Goals.
 - f. When signing chart entries, the medical student must identify him/herself as such. (e.g., Della Smith, Medical student, Year 3 or 4).

C. Other Responsibilities

1. The medical student must wear a PeaceHealth nametag identifying him/herself as a medical student.
2. . The attending must disclose to the patient that they will be seen by a medical student.
3. Patients have a right to refuse to participate in activities associated with education and training of medical students.

Approved by: _____ Date: _____

10/27/06