Medical Student Roles and Responsibilities

PURPOSE

To define the roles and responsibilities that will allow medical students on all PHOR campuses to meet their clinical course objectives. Third and fourth year medical student clerkships and electives 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.

POLICY

1. A medical student is not considered an independent practitioner, so may participate in patient care activities only under the guidance and supervision of the clinical attending (teaching) physician and may participate only in patient care activities for which the clinical attending physician is credentialed.

2. A medical student may assist the physician with procedures in the operating room and other areas of the hospital or clinic as recommended by clinical attending physician.

3. The attending physician maintains responsibility for the medical student’s actions.
   a. Dress appropriately and adhere to the Behavioral Expectations and all policies and procedures of the hospital and clinics
   b. Complete all required orientation training and paperwork before interacting with staff or patients
   c. Students at the 3rd and 4th year levels should be actively engaged in patient care responsibilities and not considered as observers.

4. Any adverse actions should be reported to the Medical Director and Director of...
the Center for Medical Education & Research.

REQUIREMENTS

1. A medical student may:
   a. Make patient rounds, or see patients in the clinic, in conjunction or in coordination with the attending,
   b. Advise patients and their families as instructed by the attending.
   c. Assist the attending with H&Ps, progress notes and discharge summaries by preparing them and reviewing them with the attending, but not dictating them into the patient record.
   d. Not obtain informed consent.

2. Medical Records and Documentation.
   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 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.
   c. 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.
   d. 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.
   e. 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.
   i. 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.
   ii. 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.
f. May NOT initiate orders or give verbal or telephone orders to hospital staff.

g. May transcribe physician’s verbal orders for drugs, treatments and diagnostic tests, to be countersigned by physician before implementation by hospital staff.

h. Must follow pertinent policies when documenting in the patient record, including use of abbreviations and compliance with the National Patient Safety Goals.

i. When signing chart entries, the medical student must identify him/herself as such; (e.g., Della Smith, MS3 or MS4).

3. Other Responsibilities

a. The medical student must wear a PeaceHealth name badge identifying him/herself as a medical student.

b. The student, attending and/or staff must disclose to the patient that they will be seen by a medical student.

i. Patients have a right to refuse to participate in activities associated with education and training of medical students.

c. The student must report any injuries or exposures immediately to their Clinical Attending Physician and the Director of the Center for Medical Education & Research.

d. The student must abide by all applicable PeaceHealth rules, regulations, policies, and procedures for Student Experiences including the security, confidentiality, and privacy of information as identified in the orientation materials.

e. The medical student should also:

i. Be present and participate fully in all activities of the clerkship as assigned

ii. Be current with all patients and encouraged to do advanced readings on patients

iii. Make decisions, defend them, and understand the consequences of a poor decision

iv. Be respectful of patients, staff, and faculty at all times

v. Notify the Clinical Attending Physician in a timely manner regarding attendance issues and complete a Request for Time-Off Form when applicable.