



Office of the Dean
School of Medicine

Policy Title: Policy on Clinical Supervision

Date of Review/Revision/Approval: June 2024

Review Cycle: 4 years

Body Responsible for Review/Revision/Approval: Clerkship Director Committee; Curriculum Steering Committee

Responsible Dean: Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

**Relevant LCME Element:
(if applicable)** 9.3

Policy Statement/Purpose:

Medical students must be appropriately supervised during clinical clerkships and other clinical experiences. This is a matter of both student and patient safety. The level of student responsibility must be appropriate to the student's level of training, and the activities supervised must be within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.

Policy Directives:

Students will participate in patient care under the direct supervision of LSU Health Sciences Center faculty members, residents, and/or other mutually agreed upon and appropriately credentialed health providers. Students may participate in activities including, but not limited to, the following:

- Take histories from and perform physical examinations on patients in the emergency room, inpatient units, and outpatient clinics
- Document patient findings in the medical record as a student note
- Communicate evaluation results and plans of care with patients as deemed appropriate by faculty with respect to situation
- Scrub in on surgeries and procedures in the surgical suites and labor and delivery units
- Perform minor procedures as deemed appropriate by faculty with respect to training and ability

History taking, physical examinations, medical record documentation, and communicating evaluation results and plans of care are activities that students may perform without the direct accompaniment of a physician or other supervising health provider. Students who perform any procedure must have the appropriate training to do so and must be supervised by a faculty member, resident, or other mutually agreed upon and appropriately credentialed health provider.

Non-physician providers may have student teaching responsibility as assigned by faculty physicians who are available by phone or on site to assist with care if needed. If a non-physician health provider supervises a student in clinical activities, the level of responsibility delegated to the student must be appropriate to the student's level of training, and the activities supervised must be within the scope of practice of the supervising health provider.

If students have concerns that they have not been adequately supervised in clinical activities, they should contact the clerkship director as soon as possible. If students are not comfortable contacting the clerkship director, they should contact the Director of the Clinical Sciences Curriculum, the Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education, the Assistant Dean for Student Affairs, or the Associate Dean for Student Affairs. Students also have the opportunity to report concerns about their level of clinical supervision anonymously on the end-of-clerkship Aesculapian evaluations, which are reviewed quarterly with clerkship directors.