



University of Virginia School of Medicine Medical Student Supervision Policy

The University of Virginia School of Medicine shall establish guidelines regarding the levels of supervision required of all students in the pursuit of their undergraduate medical education training. The School of Medicine is committed to medical student education that is necessary to produce the highest quality physicians, while working with an institution in which patient safety is the upmost and foremost priority. The University of Virginia School of Medicine shall provide all medical students an education that is progressive as it applies clinically and academically and according to requirements of the Liaison Committee for Medical Education (LCME).

The amount of supervision required for each student will vary according to the clinical nature of each patient and be commensurate with the level of training, education, and experience of the student that is involved with the patient's care. While engaged in clinical rotations or clinical activities associated with prescribed course work, medical students should be incorporated into and accepted as an integral part of the team, permitted to participate in team care of the patient, and expected to demonstrate individual ownership of patient care responsibilities.

Individual courses/clerkship directors will provide specific guidance to students to explain the student's level of responsibility and the scope of approved activities and procedures expected or permitted. This information will be shared with all teaching faculty, residents and staff annually.

1. Supervision of all students is provided by qualified faculty and/or resident physicians at all times that a student is on duty or on call. Students are provided with rapid, reliable systems for communicating with faculty and resident physicians.
2. Supervision is designed to foster progressive responsibility.
3. Supervision is based on a student's demonstrated ability, level of training and demonstrated competence, as well as the objectives for the rotation.
4. Supervision is designed to provide constructive feedback in any problem areas encountered during the rotation and to facilitate mid-clerkship assessment and feedback.
5. Supervision is designed to verify student-generated reports in a timely manner. Any major changes made to a report are discussed with students to enhance education. Faculty, residents, and students are educated to recognize the signs of fatigue and adopt and apply policies to prevent and counteract the potential negative effects.

Expectations of Attending Physicians and Resident Physicians for Supervising Medical Students:

- Provide opportunities for students to demonstrate responsibility and ownership for patient care responsibilities:

Take patient histories, perform complete and/or focused physical examinations and enter findings in the medical record of the patient with the approval of the patient's supervising attending physician and under the supervision of the attending physician or designated house staff. Students will write the patient's daily note, enter orders, and coordinate care in a fashion commensurate with their training level. The findings entered in the medical record of the patient will be for educational and student evaluation purposes only and cannot be used in lieu of any required medical staff and/or house staff documentation. Students must clearly sign all entries in the medical record, along with the designation that they are medical students. Supervising attending physicians or graduate medical trainees are to review student notes and all order entries.

Provide patient care services under the direct supervision of the attending physician or designated house staff. In all patient care contacts the patient shall be made aware that the individual providing the care and/or performing the procedure is a student.

Review focused topics related to patients on the service and report information back to the team to demonstrate self-directed, clinical learning and application of knowledge to the care of patients.

- Provide students with regular feedback.

The clerkship or course director should be notified immediately if serious academic or professional gaps in student performance exist. Students should also perform self-assessment and report to the attending physician and resident identified areas for improvement along with a plan for improvement. Students should be encouraged to contact the attending and/or the clerkship or course director with problems or concerns in clinical, administrative, professional or educational matters.

- Set a model example of professionalism and collegiality.

Curriculum Committee Approved, June 20, 2013