



Policy/Procedure Title: Patient Care Supervision
Effective: 12/1/2017
Policy Contact: Thomas Zimmerman, DO, MBA, FCOFP, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs

Purpose: The purpose of this policy is to ensure that osteopathic medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are under the supervision by a licensed health care professional at all times in order to ensure safety.

Scope: UIWSOM COCA Element: 5.4

Description: Students may only be involved in patient care activities as part of an approved UIWSOM curricular activity, and under the supervision of an assigned clinical faculty member. These activities may include but are not limited to early clinical experiences and clinical clerkships. The student's supervising clinical faculty/preceptor is ultimately responsible for the patient's care.

With the approval and general supervision of the clinical faculty/preceptor, students may take histories, perform physical examinations, and enter their findings in the patient's chart. Students may not perform any medical treatment or procedures (including OMT) without appropriate supervision. The faculty member/preceptor generally should be present for any treatment, procedure, or invasive exam. Students are not to take the place of qualified staff. Students may not write or enter patient care orders independently and all such orders must be reviewed and approved by the clinical faculty member/preceptor.

Students should accurately represent themselves to patients and others on the medical team as an "osteopathic medical student" or "student doctor". Students should never introduce themselves as "Doctor" at any time, as this is clearly a misrepresentation of the student's position, knowledge, and authority. Students should never provide care beyond what is appropriate for their level of training, even under supervision. Students must also not provide medical diagnoses or treatment advice unless under the direct supervision of a clinical faculty member/preceptor.

Medical Record Documentation: While students are encouraged to participate in documentation in the medical record, this must be done at the discretion of the preceptor and facility policies. If documentation within the medical record is allowed, student notes must be immediately cosigned by the supervising physician and that physician must follow this with her or her physician note. At no time do the student notes serve as a surrogate or substitute for a physician preceptor's notes.

Responsible Office:	Office of Medical and Interprofessional Education
Compliance Assurance:	Office of Medical and Interprofessional Education
Approved by:	SOM Leadership Council
Reviewed/Updated:	Annually
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