



SCHOOL of  
OSTEOPATHIC  
MEDICINE

<b>Policy Title:</b>	Patient Care Supervision
<b>Functional Area:</b>	ACADEMIC
<b>COCA Element:</b>	5.4
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<b>Status:</b>	FINAL
<b>Effective:</b>	12/1/2017
<b>Approved by:</b>	Leadership Council
<b>Policy Contact:</b>	Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs
<b>Responsible Office:</b>	Office of Clinical Affairs
<b>Last Reviewed/Updated:</b>	12/1/2017; 12/1/2020

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**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.

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## Policy Statement

### 1) Description

#### Clinical Activities

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. A medical student is not legally or ethically permitted to practice medicine or assume responsibility for patients. The clinical site will define the degree of student involvement in patient care activities at that facility. Students must comply with all general and specific rules and medical ethics established by the hospital, clinic, or facility at which they are being trained. A student may be involved in assisting in the care of a patient, but only under the supervision of a licensed physician. The supervising clinical faculty/preceptor is ultimately responsible for the patient care.

A student may not administer therapy or perform procedures, except under the supervision of a licensed physician to whom the student has been formally assigned. Patient care activities may include, but are not limited to, early clinical experiences and clinical clerkships. 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 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.

#### Student Titles

Students should accurately represent themselves to patients and others on the medical team as an “osteopathic medical student” or “student doctor.” If any entries are made into patient medical records, any student signature should be followed by “OMS-III” or “OMS-IV” written legibly or entered electronically. Students should never introduce themselves as “Doctor” at any time,

regardless of any previous degrees that they may hold, 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.

## Disclosure

Learners must understand the ethics of full disclosure. The patient must be well informed to make health care decisions and work intelligently in partnership with the medical team. Information that the patient needs for decision-making should be presented in terms the patient can understand. If the patient is unable to comprehend for some reason, there should be full disclosure to the patient's authorized representative. Learners who participate in disclosing information to patients must do so only with the guidance and supervision of the attending physician.

## Informed Consent

Students must understand the obligation to obtain informed consent from patients but are not responsible for obtaining such consent. It is the physician's responsibility to ensure that the patient or surrogate be appropriately informed as to the nature of the patient's medical condition, the objectives of proposed treatment alternatives, and risks/benefits involved. The physician's presentation should be understandable and unbiased. The patient's or surrogate's concurrence must be obtained without coercion. Learners who participate in obtaining informed consent must do so only with the guidance and supervision of the attending physician.

- 2. Provide a link to where the documents are published.*

UIWSOM Student Handbook- Page 47, 48, 74, 76, 77:

<https://osteopathic-medicine.uiw.edu/docs/student-handbook/uiwsom-student-handbook-2020-2021.pdf>