



**CASE WESTERN RESERVE  
UNIVERSITY  
School of Medicine**

**Policy Title: Policy on Clinical Supervision**

**Approved By: JCOG**

**Date Approved: 04/11/2024 (previous - 10/22/2015)**

**Review Period: Every 3 years**

**Responsible Office or Committee: Clinical Assistant Deans**

**LCME Affiliated Elements: 9.3**

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**Policy Statement:**

*This policy establishes guidelines and expectations for the supervision of medical students in clinical settings.*

**Purpose of Policy:**

*The purpose of this policy is to create a structured framework for the supervision of medical students in clinical settings, prioritizing patient safety while facilitating valuable learning experiences for students.*

**Scope of Policy:**

*This policy applies to students enrolled in the University and College Programs in the School of Medicine.*

**Policy:**

The Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine values the participation of medical students in clinical settings and encourages their progressive responsibility in patient care. At the same time, it is important to remember that students are learners and not licensed to independently provide patient care. They must be supervised at all times. This policy describes the expectations for student supervision in the clinical setting.

Supervision may be provided by any of the following:

- an attending physician overseeing the care of the patient,
- a teaching attending whose primary role is teaching in the clinical setting,
- a resident or fellow under supervision by an attending physician
- an allied health professional whose patient care is supervised by an attending physician.
- an allied health professional with a faculty appointment

It is the responsibility of the attending physician to ensure that any graduate trainee or allied health professional supervising students is working within the scope of her/his practice. All attending physicians who supervise students must hold a CWRU faculty appointment.

On clerkships, it is the clerkship director's responsibility to ensure that clinical activities are set up so that appropriate supervision is always available. For clinical electives, including Acting Internships, this responsibility falls to the faculty director for the elective.



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Supervision will be developmental, depending upon students' skills and the complexity of the clinical situations. Initially, students may require close supervision, with supervisors directly observing patient care. After students have demonstrated competency in necessary skills, supervision may be provided with the supervisor nearby and available. In those situations, students should be provided with rapid, reliable systems for communicating with supervisors.

For complex skills or clinical situations where patient or student safety could be compromised, it may be inappropriate for students to perform patient care without direct observation.

Distribution: Students will have online access to this policy in the student handbook. In addition, the policy will be reviewed at the general clerkship orientation and will be posted under the policies link of the learning management system section devoted to the clinical curriculum.