

MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

ROLE OF MEDICAL STUDENTS

PRACTICE PROTOCOL

PURPOSE

- A. To establish policies and guidelines relative to patient care responsibilities assumed by medical students, residents, and fellows.
- B. To ensure that medical students, residents and fellows have sufficient supervision to prevent them from being placed in a situation in which they might be responsible for any untoward medical event.
- C. Definition: A medical student is matriculating in a medical college approved by the State Board of Medical Examiners and is obtaining clinical experience at Mountains Community Hospital as part of his/her academic training.

POLICY

- A. **The following medical student policies and procedures are designed to ensure:**
 - 1. Medical students shall not assume patient care responsibilities without appropriate supervision.
 - 2. Medical students shall not identify themselves as "doctors" to patients, families, staff, or the paging services;
 - 3. When medical students sign medical records and documents, they shall always identify themselves as medical students;
 - 4. Medical students shall not complete signed blank documents (i.e., medical orders, prescriptions, etc)
 - 5. The Attending Physician will be available for counter-signature for medical orders and prescriptions.
- B. **Responsibilities:**
 - 1. Medical students shall not perform any act requiring a medical license in the State of California except under the supervision of a physician, or as listed under Customary Allowable Medical Procedures for Medical Students (Section D).

2. The supervising attending physician is responsible for the actions of the medical students on his or her service.
3. The responsible physicians will assign direct patient care responsibilities in accordance with the students' abilities.
4. Medical students shall obtain a counter-signature by the responsible physician for all orders, progress notes, medical documents, or other entries into the medical records.

C. Medical Orders and Drug Orders:

1. Medical personnel will not execute any order that is not counter-signed by the staff physician or resident assuming primary responsibility for the patient.
2. Prescriptions written by medical students shall be counter-signed by a licensed physician and will be filled only at the Hospital Pharmacy. Medical students shall not write prescriptions for scheduled drugs.
3. The only exception shall be in the event of an emergency situation, and only if the above rules cannot be followed. Careful documentation of the necessity for an exception to the above rules will be made in the hospital chart by the responsible physician.

D. Allowable Medical Procedures:

1. The supervising attending physician shall delineate the procedures that the medical student may perform:
 - a) with direct supervision
 - b) with remote supervision
2. Supervision:
 - a) Direct - to oversee within the immediate area
 - b) Remote - A student, after demonstrating his or her competence, can do the following procedures, without a physician in the room but must discuss them with a physician before the procedure(s) are undertaken.
3. Each medical student shall obtain permission from his or her supervising physician before performing a procedure. If nursing assistance is required, the supervising physician shall notify the nursing staff of his or her concurrence prior to the procedure being performed.

4. Students shall not cause unnecessary discomfort to the patient.
5. In case of emergency, the medical student shall respond only to the extent of his or her knowledge and ability.