Guidelines for Clinical Activities by Medical Students

Medical students rotate in the clinical setting to learn all aspects of patient care to include the following: obtaining patient histories, performing thorough physical examinations, formulating differential diagnoses, learning to make decisions based on appropriate laboratory and radiological studies and procedures, interpreting results of special studies and treatment, communicating with patients on all aspects of disease and prognosis and communicating with members of the health care team.

To this end, the medical student may participate in activities which include the following:

- Access to patients for obtaining a medical history, performing a physical exam, and following the inpatient and/or outpatient course.
- Access to the patient’s entire medical record, including laboratory reports, x-ray reports, etc.
- Performance of appropriately supervised procedures as authorized by the patient’s attending physician. For procedures such as venipuncture that the student has been trained for and declared competent in, the student may perform independent of direct supervision.
- Performance of basic laboratory studies such as urinalysis, under appropriate supervision and review.
- When the student is clinically prepared, writing orders for specified patients. All of the orders written by a medical student must be reviewed and countersigned by the responsible resident or attending physician before forwarding to the nursing service.
- Writing patient progress notes in the medical chart; these must be reviewed and countersigned by the responsible resident or attending physician.

1. Medical students CANNOT write orders independently, without review and counter-signature by the responsible resident.
2. Medical students CANNOT give verbal orders.

3. Medical students CANNOT be in the primary line of communications in the critical value reporting process.

Medical students CANNOT have primary responsibility for communication of vital patient related information to the patient or family members