Providers of Care to Medical Students

I. Purpose:
1) To assure that academic evaluation/progression are independent from confidential or protected health information.
2) To ensure that individuals charged with academic evaluation/progression base their decisions on agreed upon performance measures.
3) To assure that medical students can obtain and receive private and confidential medical care from the Student Health Center and/or psychological/psychiatric care from the Counseling Services, and that health care providers of sensitive medical or psychological/psychiatric care to medical students have no role in evaluation/progression of medical students through the academic curriculum.

II. Policy:
The UT Health Science Center School of Medicine at San Antonio (“SoM”) is committed to providing an educational environment that is supportive and respectful to its faculty, staff and students. This policy is established to ensure that students are evaluated based on common agreed upon performance measures that are independent of confidential or protected health information. This is essential to ensure that student academic performance is evaluated properly and to ensure that students are not discouraged from seeking medical and/or psychological/psychiatric care that is held in the strictest standards of patient privacy and confidentiality, without concern for consequent adverse actions or repercussions.

Students and health care providers should follow these procedures to make certain that the appropriate care is sought and provided.

Health care professionals who provide medical and/or psychological/psychiatric care to medical students must:
1). have no role in the formal academic or professionalism evaluation of medical students at the present or future time.
2). have no role in advancement/progression/graduation of medical students at the present or future time.
3). recuse himself/herself from the formal academic or professionalism evaluation of medical students and from academic or professionalism decisions of advancement/progression/graduation of medical students, if a dual relationship with medical students is anticipated or is discovered, and, when appropriate and without breaching confidentiality, alert the Dean in the Office for Student Affairs immediately.

Students should:
1). seek medical care through the Student Health Center (Room 1.422 Nursing Building). This medical care is usually provided by Registered Nurses or Advanced Nurse Practitioners under the supervision of the Student Health Center Medical Director. The health care providers in the Student Health Center may refer medical students to other academic or community health care providers for further/follow-up care.
2). seek psychological/psychiatric care through the Counseling Services (Room 101F Medical School). A multidisciplinary staff, who is not involved in academic or professionalism evaluation and/or decisions of advancement/progression through the curriculum, provides evaluation and short-term treatment including counseling, psychotherapy, and medication management when necessary to medical students with mental health, situational, social or academic concerns. The
health care providers in the Counseling Services may refer medical students to other academic or community health care providers for further/follow-up care.

3). inform staff in the Student Health Center and the Counseling Services that they are students at the SoM.