

Supervision of Sensitive Physical Exam Policy

Approved date: May 16, 2018

Effective date: July 2, 2018

Policy Statement:

Students must learn to perform physical examinations to ensure the safety and comfort of the patient as well as to gain practical experience. When a physical exam requires examination of sensitive body parts, another health care professional must be present in the room with the medical student.

Policy:

Medical students are permitted to perform sensitive exams on patients (breast, genitalia, and rectum) only in the presence of a qualified health care professional (including a fellow, nurse, nurse practitioner, medical assistant, midwife, physician, physician assistant, resident, or gynecologic or male urological teaching assistant – standardized patient). Medical students may and should decline to participate if the student does not feel comfortable with the circumstances of the exam.

Accreditation Standards:

9.3 Clinical Supervision of Medical Students

A medical school ensures that medical students in clinical learning situations involving patient care are appropriately supervised at all times in order to ensure patient and student safety, that the level of responsibility delegated to the student is appropriate to his or her level of training, and that the activities supervised are within the scope of practice of the supervising health professional.