

Title: Medical student activities during training

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Purpose: Provide guidance on Medical Practice Act statute and regulations on medical student practice

Approved by: Medical director

The Medical Board fully supports licensees hosting and training medical students. Here are the requirements expected of supervising licensees.

Medical Practice Act 61-6-6:

B. "board" means the New Mexico medical board;

F. "medical college or school in good standing" for medical physicians means a board-approved medical college or school that has as high a standard as that required by the association of American medical colleges and the council on medical education of the American medical association; and for osteopathic physicians means a college of osteopathic medicine accredited by the commission of osteopathic college accreditation;

G. "medical student" means a student enrolled in a board-approved medical college or school in good standing;

Medical Practice Act 61-6-18:

Nothing in the Medical Practice Act shall prevent a medical student properly registered or enrolled in a medical college or school in good standing from diagnosing or treating the sick or afflicted, provided that the medical student does not receive compensation for services and such services are rendered under the supervision of the school faculty as part of the student's course of study.

Our regulations also cite the AMA Code of Medical Ethics for guidance on the proper behavior of physicians, and following is relevant to the supervision of medical students.

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION CODE OF ETHICS OPINION 9.2.1

Medical Student Involvement in Patient Care

Having contact with patients is essential for training medical students, and both patients and the public benefit from the integrated care that is provided by health care teams that include medical students. However, the obligation to develop the next generation of physicians must be balanced against patients' freedom to choose from whom they receive treatment.

All physicians share an obligation to ensure that patients are aware that medical students may participate in their care and have the opportunity to decline care from students. Attending physicians may be best suited to fulfill this obligation. Before involving medical students in a patient's care, physicians should:

- *Convey to the patient the benefits of having medical students participate in their care.*
- *Inform the patients about the identity and training status of individuals involved in care. Students, their supervisors, and all health care professionals should avoid confusing terms and properly identify themselves to patients.*
- *Inform the patient that trainees will participate before a procedure is undertaken when the patient will be temporarily incapacitated.*
- *Discuss student involvement in care with the patient's surrogate when the patient lacks decision-making capacity.*
- *Confirm that the patient is willing to permit medical students to participate in care.*

Apart from Medical Board, it would seem appropriate for a hospital or practice to have policies and procedures for students around HIPPA and safety training, insurance, credentialing (badging, for example), medical record documentation including how to use the EMR, supervision provisions and consents. This is beyond the scope of the medical board, but the UNM medical school might be able to assist in this area.