

## **The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine**

### **Supervision of Students on Clinical Rotations**

Policy Number: COM-5.4

Effective Date: November 20, 2024

Revisions and Dates:

Approved by: Alissa Craft, DO, MBA, Dean

#### **Policy & Procedure Statement**

The Valley COM holds patient safety in the highest importance. We value the role of learners as members of the healthcare team in providing excellent interprofessional clinical care. The Valley COM embraces the educational principle of graded responsibility to maximally support learners in their development towards clinical expertise. This policy describes roles, responsibilities and requirements of professional behaviors and appropriate clinical supervision to ensure both patient and student safety in the clinical learning environment.

#### **Student Involvement on Clinical Rotations:**

##### **1. Student Role and Responsibilities:**

- A student of The Valley College of Osteopathic Medicine (The Valley COM) is not licensed to practice medicine and may only assist in patient care under the supervision and guidance of a licensed physician or advanced practice provider (PA or NP).
- Students are involved in patient care primarily for educational purposes. Their participation should complement and enhance their learning experiences, allowing them to develop the necessary skills and competencies required for their professional practice. Students may be involved in various aspects of patient care appropriate to their level of training, experience, and competence.
- Students must comply with all relevant local, state, and federal regulations, institutional policies, and professional ethical standards while participating in patient care.

- Students are prohibited from administering therapy or medication until a licensed physician or advanced practice provider (PA or NP) confirms the diagnosis and directly supervises the student's actions.
- All orders and progress notes written by a student must be approved and countersigned by a licensed physician or advanced practice provider (PA or NP) before implementation.

## 2. **Supervision:**

- The level of supervision should be determined by the student's knowledge, skill level, and experience. As students progress in their training, they may be allowed to perform certain tasks with less direct supervision, but a licensed physician or advanced practice provider (PA or NP) must always be available for consultation or intervention if required. While students may be allowed to perform certain tasks independently, a licensed physician or advanced practice provider (PA or NP) must always be readily accessible to provide guidance, oversight, and support.
- The supervising physician faculty member is responsible for overseeing the student's activities throughout the clinical rotation.
- Any violation of supervision protocols should be reported immediately to the Department of Clinical Education & GME.

## 2. **Telehealth Experiences:**

- Clinical rotations with a telehealth component must be conducted live and on-site with the assigned or approved faculty members.

## 2. **Continuity of Care and Observational Opportunities:**

- Students on clinical rotations may request permission to observe surgeries or diagnostic procedures related to patients on their service, with approval from both their supervising physician and the performing physician.

## 2. **Conflict of Interest:**

- Faculty members with personal, familial, or therapeutic relationships with a student must recuse themselves from direct involvement in any aspect of the student's educational experience, including grading, or any decisions directly related to the clinical rotation.
- Students are required to disclose any request to complete a rotation at a site where a family member, spouse, or significant other works. If the student does not disclose this relationship when sending in a rotation request, they will not

receive credit for the rotation(s). A family member cannot supervise or issue a grade for a student.

**2. Professional Liability Insurance:**

- Liability insurance provided by The Valley COM covers students during approved clinical rotations under the supervision of the assigned clinical faculty member or designee. This coverage does not extend to unsupervised activities or during vacation, leave of absence, or academic suspension periods.

**2. Shadowing and Other Non-Approved Clinical Experiences:**

- Shadowing outside of scheduled rotations is prohibited and not covered by The Valley COM's liability insurance.

**2. Relationships and Professional Conduct:**

- The relationship between students, patients, and faculty members must strictly adhere to professional standards. Dating or intimate relationships between students and patients or faculty members are prohibited.

**2. Supervision and Interprofessional Education:**

- Students must be under direct supervision when performing procedures and must work collaboratively with all members of the healthcare team during rotations.

**Reporting and Compliance:**

- Any concerns regarding patient care, supervision, or ethical conflicts should be immediately reported to the Department of Clinical Education & GME.