

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY HEALTH SCIENCES CENTER EL PASO**  
**Paul L. Foster School of Medicine**  
**GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION**  
**Standard Policy and/or Procedure**

**TITLE:** Supervision and Accountability Policy

**APPROVED:** 08/11/2017

**REVISED:** 08/11/2017

**EFFECTIVE:** 08/11/2017

**PURPOSE:** The Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) requires that all patient care provided by residents and fellows be supervised by qualified faculty. In addition, programs must demonstrate that the appropriate level of supervision is in place for all residents who care for patients.

**POLICY/PROCEDURE STATEMENT:** Although the attending physician is ultimately responsible for the care of the patient, every physician shares in the responsibility and accountability for their efforts in the provision of care. Effective programs, in partnership with their Sponsoring Institutions, define, widely communicate, and monitor a structured chain of responsibility and accountability as it relates to the supervision of all patient care.

Supervision in the setting of graduate medical education provides safe and effective care to patients; ensures each resident's development of the skills, knowledge, and attitudes required to enter the unsupervised practice of medicine; and establishes a foundation for continued professional growth.

Each patient must have an identifiable and appropriately credentialed and privileged attending physician (or licensed independent practitioner as specified by the applicable Review Committee) who is responsible and accountable for the patient's care. This information must be available to residents, faculty members, other members of the health care team, and patients. Residents and faculty members must inform each patient of their respective roles in that patient's care when providing direct patient care.

Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods. For many aspects of patient care, the supervising physician may be a more advanced resident or fellow. Other portions of care provided by the resident can be adequately supervised by the immediate availability of the supervising faculty member, fellow, or senior resident physician, either on site or by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities. Some activities require the physical presence of the supervising faculty member. In some circumstances, supervision may include post-hoc review of resident-delivered care with feedback.

The program must demonstrate that the appropriate level of supervision in place for all residents is based on each resident's level of training and ability, as well as patient complexity and acuity. Supervision may be exercised through a variety of methods, as appropriate to the situation.

## **Levels of Supervision**

To promote oversight of resident supervision while providing for graded authority and responsibility, the program must use the following classification of supervision:

**Direct Supervision** – the supervising physician is physically present with the resident and patient.

### **Indirect Supervision:**

- With Direct Supervision immediately available – the supervising physician is physically within the hospital or other site of patient care, and is immediately available to provide Direct Supervision.
- With Direct Supervision available – the supervising physician is not physically present within the hospital or other site of patient care, but is immediately available by means of telephonic and/or electronic modalities, and is available to provide Direct Supervision.

**Oversight** – the supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback provided after care is delivered.

The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence, and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each resident must be assigned by the program director and faculty members.

- The program director must evaluate each resident's abilities based on specific criteria, guided by the Milestones.
- Faculty members functioning as supervising physicians must delegate portions of care to residents based on the needs of the patient and the skills of each resident.
- Senior residents or fellows should serve in a supervisory role to junior residents in recognition of their progress toward independence, based on the needs of each patient and the skills of the individual resident or fellow.

Programs must set guidelines for circumstances and events in which residents must communicate with the supervising faculty member(s). Each resident must know the limits of their scope of authority, and the circumstances under which the resident is permitted to act with conditional independence.

Initially, PGY-1 residents must be supervised either directly or indirectly with direct supervision immediately available. [Each Review Committee may describe the conditions and the achieved competencies under which PGY-1 residents progress to be supervised indirectly with direct supervision available.]

Faculty supervision assignments must be of sufficient duration to assess the knowledge and skills of each resident and to delegate to the resident the appropriate level of patient care authority and responsibility.