



**University of Pikeville
Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Office of the Dean**

Patient Care Supervision

Policy Contact: Clinical Affairs, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine
Policy Category: Administration
Policy Number: 5.4
Review: Annually

Purpose

In order to ensure patient safety in clinical learning situations, osteopathic medical students from University of Pikeville – Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) are under the supervision of a licensed health care professional in all situations involving patient care.

Policy Statement

Clinical Activities

University of Pikeville, Kentucky College of Osteopathic Medicine (KYCOM) may only be involved in patient care activities as part of an approved KYCOM activity and under the supervision of an assigned clinical faculty member. KYCOM students are not legally or ethically permitted to practice medicine or assume responsibility for patients. The assigned clinical site will determine the degree of student involvement in patient care activities, the supervising clinical faculty/preceptor is ultimately responsible for all patient care. Students are required to comply with all general and specific rules and medical ethics established by the clinical rotation site at which they are placed.

Students are not permitted to provide any type of medical treatment, procedure, or invasive examination without the direct supervision of an assigned clinical faculty member/preceptor. Patient care activities include, but are not limited to, early clinical experiences and clinical clerkships. If a student receives approval, they may take histories, perform physical examinations, and enter findings into the patient's chart. Students are not permitted to write or enter patient care orders independently and/or issue prescriptions, any such orders/prescriptions must be reviewed and approved by the clinical faculty member/preceptor.

Student Titles

Students of KYCOM should accurately represent themselves as an “osteopathic medical student” or “student doctor.” If any entries are made into patient medical records, any student signature should be followed by “OMS-III” or “OMS-IV” written legibly or entered electronically. Students are not permitted to introduce themselves as “Doctor” at any time, regardless of any previous degrees they

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may hold. Students should never provide care beyond what is appropriate for their level of training, even under supervision.

Preceptor Guidelines

KYCOM places its students at clinical education training sites for the clinical component of their medical education. All clinical education sites should provide and maintain an environment conducive to the education of osteopathic medical students, and encourage critical dialog between preceptors and students. In addition, preceptors should assist students in obtaining experience in patient care by allowing them to share responsibility with qualified staff and physicians.

Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment Community Services

KYCOM students are involved in patient care activities as part of the KYCOM Osteopathic Manipulative Treatment (OMT) clinic. This is a free clinic which provides osteopathic manipulative treatment to the community and surrounding areas. As a part of KYCOM osteopathic medical education, students provide osteopathic manipulative treatment to patients under the supervision of an assigned clinical faculty member.

In addition, students occasionally provide osteopathic treatment during community events under the supervision of an assigned clinical faculty member.

All patients are required to sign an informed consent form acknowledging understanding that treatment will be provided by students under physician supervision.

Related References

[KYCOM Clinical Rotations Manual](#)

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April 28, 2025

Last Approved Date

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