OBSERVERS

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center School of Medicine (TTUHSC SOM) Graduate Medical Education (GME) Policy and Procedure is to establish an institutional policy for International Medical Graduates (IMG’s) who wish to observe research, clinical or scholarly activities in the TTUHSC medical education programs on a temporary basis.

REVIEW: This TTUHSC SOM Policy and Procedure will be reviewed on September 1 of each even-numbered year by the Lubbock GME Office, with recommendations for revision forwarded to the GME Coordinating Council by September 30 of the same year.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

1. Medical students and/or physicians in training from unapproved medical schools will not be permitted as observers in any of the TTUHSC GME programs because of the heightened awareness of potential malpractice claims and violation of the Medical Practice Act, Section 3.08 (H) and (I) and Chapter 162 of the Licensure rules of the Texas Medical Board (TMB).

2. Guidelines of Chapter 162.1-162.2 of the licensure rules of the TMB, Supervision of Medical School Students, a copy of which is attached to this policy, will be followed.

3. Should programs wish to provide additional training and/or orientation prior to residents’ initial day of residency, the SOM GME pre-intern policy will be applicable.
§162.1. Supervision of Medical Students.
(a) In order to supervise a medical student:
   (1) a physician must have an active and unrestricted Texas license, and the medical student must meet the following criteria:
      (A) is enrolled at a Texas medical school; or
      (B) is a student at a medical school located outside Texas and is enrolled as a visiting student at a Texas medical school; or
   (2) a physician must:
      (A) have an active and unrestricted Texas license; and
      (B) hold a faculty position in the graduate medical education program in the same specialty in which the student will receive undergraduate medical education; and
      (C) supervise the student during the educational period; and
      (D) the medical student must receive supervised medical education in either a Texas hospital or teaching institution, which sponsors or participates in a program of graduate medical education accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Texas Medical Board in the same subject as the medical or osteopathic medical education in which the hospital or teaching institution has an agreement with the applicant's school.
(b) If the physician is not licensed in Texas as required in subsection (a) of this section, the physician must be employed by the federal government and maintain an active and unrestricted license.
(c) Physician applicants who receive medical education in the United States in settings that do not comply with statutory requirements set forth in Texas Occupations Code §155.003(b) - (c) may be ineligible for licensure.

Source Note: The provisions of this §162.1 adopted to be effective November 30, 2003, 28 TexReg 10480; amended to be effective January 9, 2005, 29 TexReg 12187; amended to be effective May 12, 2008, 33 TexReg 3740; amended to be effective March 9, 2009, 34 TexReg 1589.

§162.2. Physician Supervision of a Student Physician Assistant.
To be eligible to act as a preceptor to a student physician assistant, a physician must:
   (1) hold a current, active, and unrestricted Texas Medical License;
   (2) retain professional and legal responsibility for the care rendered by the student physician assistant; and,
   (3) hold a valid written agreement with an accredited physician assistant program to supervise its students, if the supervision is to occur at a site other than that of the program itself. A copy of the agreement must be available for inspection by the board upon request.

Source Note: The provisions of this §162.2 adopted to be effective January 9, 2005, 29 TexReg 121