HSC OP: 77.15, Working with Affiliated Entities - Student Drug Screenings

PURPOSE: Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center (TTUHSC) students enrolled in clinical programs are entrusted with the health, safety and welfare of patients. The safety and welfare of patients cared for by TTUHSC students is of primary concern in all TTUHSC clinical programs and its contracted affiliated entities that provide essential clinical experiences for TTUHSC students. Clinical rotations are an essential component of TTUHSC programs, and in conjunction with those clinical rotations, TTUHSC must also satisfy contractual obligations with those contracted affiliated entities.

REVIEW: This HSC OP will be reviewed on November 1 of each even-numbered year (ENY) by the Office of General Counsel, Deans of each School (except the Dean of the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences), and the Provost, with recommendations for revisions forwarded to the Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs by January 1 of the following year.

POLICY/PROCEDURE:

1. Defined Terms
   For purposes of this policy, the term "Student" does not include residents in the School of Medicine or the School of Pharmacy.

2. Background
   TTUHSC enters into affiliation agreements with various health care clinical entities (“Affiliated Entities”), such as hospitals and other facilities, in order to provide clinical experience opportunities for its students enrolled in TTUHSC clinical education programs.
   
   Affiliated Entities may establish more stringent standards for students who wish to do a clinical rotation at the affiliated entity, than those required by TTUHSC as part of its admission process. Affiliated Entities may require students, among other things, to undergo and satisfactorily pass additional background checks and/or drug screenings as a pre-requisite to participating in a clinical rotation at the Affiliated Entity.
   
   Clinical rotations are an essential element in certain degree programs’ curricula. Students who cannot participate in clinical rotations due to a positive drug screening may be unable to fulfill the requirements of a degree program.
   
   TTUHSC schools may NOT mandate this requirement for all students. It applies solely to those students who must fulfill the requirement for participation in a clinical rotation at an Affiliated Entity.

3. Clinical Placement
   Placements at Affiliated Entities for clinical rotations will be based on the learning objectives as defined by each program consistent with the learning objectives of each student. Determination of unacceptable results of a drug screening will be made by the Affiliated Entity. Any student placed with an Affiliated Entity that requires additional background checks and/or drug screens, who cannot meet these requirements, must discuss all available options with their School’s Office of Student Affairs or their designee.
Affiliated Entities may conduct their own drug screening. If the student fails the drug test, he or she shall be subject to disciplinary action in accordance with the TTUHSC policies.

4. **Responsibility of the School**

Each School shall set forth their requirements for student drug screening in their respective student handbooks or policies, as needed.

5. **Right to Change Policy.**

TTUHSC reserves the right to change, modify, amend or rescind this policy in whole, or in part, at any time.