I. PURPOSE

The Doctor of Medicine or Undergraduate Medical Education program (Program) supports voluntary non-curricular opportunities for Year 1 and 2 students to observe physicians and interprofessional health educators in their practice and explore career planning, learn from physicians on curricular material in a clinical practice and improve their competency prior to Clerkship. The purpose of this statement is to ensure that students are aware of the limitations of their participation and the process they must follow.

II. DEFINITIONS

Observership

A clinical or interprofessional health education learning opportunity within Canada during which a student observes a licensed and registered physician interacting with patients in a clinical setting or an interprofessional health educator affiliated with an clinical care affiliated facility.

III. STATEMENT

a. Observerships are voluntary clinical opportunities which students may pursue outside all scheduled learning during Year 1 and 2.

1. Curriculum will always take priority.
2. If a student has issues with attendance and/or professionalism, permission to participate in future Observerships may be revoked at the discretion of the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Medical Education.
3. Absence from any mandatory curriculum-based learning (including lectures, small groups, labs, large group discussions, etc.) to attend an Observership is not approved under any circumstances. If a student misses a scheduled learning session to attend an Observership it may result in a citation for Professionalism and loss of permission to participate in future Observerships.
4. Students may participate in an Observership outside of all academic engagements during the academic year, based on capacity and availability of preceptors.
5. The Program any number of Observerships can be obtained by every student.

b. Students must print a copy of the Observership Introductory Letter and a copy of this statement and provide both documents to the preceptor at or before the beginning of the Observership.
   - These documents clarify the role of the observer and failure to provide copies to the preceptor will be considered a breach of professionalism.
   - Interprofessional Health Education Observerships must also provide the IPE Observership Introductory letter.

c. Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry defers to the London Health Sciences Centre (LHSC) policy regarding the role of the observer:
   - https://www.sjhc.london.on.ca/sites/default/files/LHSC%20-%20Complete%20Observer%20Package%20Feb%202016_0.pdf (completion of these appendices are not required from Schulich MD students.)
• "An Observer is not permitted, in any circumstances, to provide any patient care. This prohibition includes but is not limited to
  1. Taking a medical history,
  2. Conducting physical examinations,
  3. Diagnosing or treating patient’s condition,
  4. Ordering, preparing or administering drugs,
  5. Documenting on patients’ health records, either in electronic or hard copy format,
  6. Having independent access to health records, either in electronic or hard copy format,
  7. Performing or assisting in surgical procedures, or diagnostic patient interventions,
  8. Obtaining consent,
  9. Interacting directly with patient/SDM,
  10. Providing health care advice."
• It will be the responsibility of the preceptor to supervise the student in all patient interactions.

d. By accepting the student as an Observer, the preceptor is accepting legal responsibility for the student
  • Year 1 and 2 students are covered by Western University’s general and professional liability insurance.

e. Observerships may only take place within Canada. Students are not, under any circumstances, permitted to complete these placements outside of the country.

f. Students are expected to maintain the standard of ethical behavior as outlined in the CMA Code of Ethics: (https://www.cma.ca/En/Pages/code-of-ethics.aspx)

g. All Observerships must be registered in Single Sign On and approved by the Program Office prior to taking place.
  • A minimum of ten (10) working days is required to process the registration.

h. All Schulich Medicine students must have completed (at the beginning of their first year) all LHSC online modules offered prior to participating in an Observership as a principle of best practice in pre-clinical training.
  • The Program Office is not responsible for ensuring/verifying that students have completed this training.