

UNDERGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION
SCHULICH SCHOOL OF MEDICINE & DENTISTRY

STATEMENT ON MEDICAL LEARNER PARTICIPATION IN VIRTUAL CARE

Date of last review: June 2020

Revised: March 2024

Approved by the Curriculum Committee: March 2024

Approved by JSC:

Date of Next Revision: 2028

Purpose

The Doctor of Medicine Program (MD Program), Schulich School of Medicine & Dentistry, Western University acknowledges the evolving nature of health care delivery, including the use of technology and virtual care.

This statement outlines the requirements for medical learner participation in virtual patient care during required clinical learning in the Program.

Relevant Policies

CPSO [Virtual Care](#)

CPSO [Professional Responsibilities in Medical Education](#)

Definition

As per the CPSO: Any interaction between patients and/or members of their circle of care that occurs remotely, using any form of communication or information technology, including telephone, video conferencing, and digital messaging (e.g. secure messaging, emails, and text messaging) with the aim of facilitating or providing patient care.

Criteria for participation in virtual patient care

This document applies to all medical students, including visiting medical students. All medical students must review the CPSO Virtual Care policy before starting clinical learning in year 3.

It is the supervising physician's responsibility to ensure the learner acknowledges and understands:

- Informed consent
- Patient safety
- Learner safety
- Privacy and confidentiality
- Documentation
- The use of approved technology

Process

Medical learner participation in virtual patient assessments requires:

- supervision by clinical faculty
- assessment by the preceptor when appropriate
- briefing by the faculty in advance of the encounter
- complying with the patient care and privacy requirements of the host healthcare facility. These may vary between health care organizations.
- ensuring network connection (hardware and software) complies with [PHIPA](#) and host healthcare facility requirements
- that patient information shared during the interview will be safeguarded by the learner in accordance with the guidelines of the faculty host organization and
- debrief with faculty after the session concludes
- sessions are not to be recorded for any reason sessions should only occur in the host faculty member's healthcare facility site.