

Policies and Procedures

<i>Section:</i> School of Medicine		<i>NO.</i>				
<i>Chapter:</i> Critical Care Medicine Fellowship	<i>Issued:</i> 3/1/18	<i>REV. A</i>	<i>REV. B</i>	<i>REV. C</i>		
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PURPOSE

The GMEC must monitor programs' supervision of residents and ensure that supervision is consistent with:

- a. Provision of safe and effective patient care;
- b. Educational needs of residents;
- c. Progressive responsibility appropriate to residents' level of education, competence, and experience; and,
- d. Other applicable Common and specialty/subspecialty-specific Program requirement

SCOPE

This policy applies to all Creighton University Critical Care Medicine fellows.

DEFINITIONS

As above, the level of supervision required/provided varies based on each trainee's education, competence and experience coupled with the acuity of the clinical situation. Potential levels of supervision are defined here.

- **Direct Supervision:** The supervising physician is physically present with the house staff physician and patient.
- **Indirect Supervision (divided into two subtypes):**
 - The supervising physician is immediately available in the facility and is available to provide direct supervision
 - The supervising physician is immediately available by telephone or electronic means and is available to provide direct supervision
- **Oversight Supervision:** The supervising physician is available to evaluate patient care and provide feedback after that care is delivered

It is the responsibility of each supervising physician to ensure that their level of supervision is adequate for each house staff physician at all times.

POLICY

In a health care system where patient care and the training of health care professionals occur together, there must be a clear delineation of responsibilities to ensure that qualified practitioners provide patient care, whether they are trainees or full-time staff. As resident and fellow trainees acquire the knowledge and judgment that accrue with experience, they are allowed the privilege of increased autonomy in patient care.

- a. Our training program follows the institutional requirements of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The ACGME states that the Residency/Fellowship

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Program Director and faculty are responsible for providing residents with direct experience in progressive responsibility for patient management. The process of progressive responsibility is the underlying educational principle for all graduate medical and professional education, regardless of specialty or discipline. The responsibility of the attending is to enhance the knowledge of residents and fellows while ensuring patient safety and quality care. Such responsibility is exercised by observation, consultation, and direction, and includes the imparting of knowledge, skills, and attitudes/behaviors to the residents and fellows and the assurance that care is delivered in an appropriate, timely, and effective manner. Supervision may be exercised in many ways including face-to-face contact with residents in the presence of the patient, face-to-face contact in the absence of the patient, and through consultation via the telephone or other HIPAA-compliant communication devices. If on-site supervision is not necessary, the staff physician must be able to arrive at the health care site within a reasonable period of time. Each program is responsible for training their clinician supervisors in their roles and responsibilities. Incumbent on the clinician educator is the appropriate supervision of the residents and fellows as they acquire the skills to practice independently.

Responsibilities: The provisions of this policy are applicable to patient care services including, but not limited to inpatient care, outpatient care, community and long-term care, emergency critical care, and the performance and interpretation of diagnostic and therapeutic procedures.

- a. Supervising physicians are responsible for the care provided to each patient and they must be familiar with each patient for whom they are responsible. Fulfillment of that responsibility requires personal involvement with each patient and each resident or fellow who is participating in the care of that patient. Each patient must have a supervising physician whose name is identifiable in the patient record. Faculty members functioning as supervisors should delegate portions of care to residents based on the needs of the patient and the skills of the residents. Other supervising physicians may at times be delegated responsibility for the care of the patient and the supervision of the residents and fellows involved. It is the responsibility of the supervising physician to be sure that the residents and fellows involved in the care of the patient are informed of such delegation and can readily access a supervising physician at all times.
- b. Within the scope of the training program, all residents and fellows must function under the supervision of supervising physicians. Because our service provides 24-hour, 7-day a week resident and fellow coverage, our call schedule (delineating resident, fellow and attending physician) must be provided to the medical center administration. This call schedule is available to administrators and clinicians alike at www.Amion.com.
- c. Our training program encourages residents and fellows to assume increasing levels of responsibility commensurate with the ACGME milestones experience, skill, knowledge, and judgement. The Clinical Competency Committee of each program defines the levels

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of responsibilities for each milestone of training by submitting a description of the types of clinical activities each resident may perform under what type of supervision. The Residency/Fellowship Program Director ensures that this list of graduated levels of responsibility is available electronically to the health care site who will distribute it to other appropriate staff. Note that this is the minimum level of supervision required by the trainee: more intensive supervision may be provided at the discretion of the supervising fellow and/or faculty member.

- d. There are circumstances in which all residents and fellows, regardless of level of training and experience, must verbally communicate with their appropriate supervisor (i.e., resident to fellow, fellow to attending physician).

Circumstances in which the resident MUST contact the supervising fellow:

- a. Anytime questions arise regarding patient care
- b. At the request of the bedside nurse
- c. Every ICU admission
- d. General ward consultations for urgent conditions
- e. Transfer of any patient to a higher level of care
- f. Code Blue Team activation
- g. Change in DNR status
- h. Patient/family dissatisfaction or request for a care meeting
- i. Patient requesting discharge AMA
- j. EVERY procedure
- k. Patient death
- l. Prior to any extubation
- m. Initiation of vasopressors

Circumstances in which the first-year fellow MUST contact the supervising attending:

- a. Anytime questions arise regarding patient care
- b. Every ICU admission
- c. General ward consultations for urgent conditions
- d. Transfer of any patient to a higher level of care
- e. Code Blue Team activation
- f. Change in DNR status
- g. Patient/family dissatisfaction or request for a care meeting
- h. Patient requesting discharge AMA
- i. Any procedure not credentialed by the Clinical Competency Committee
- j. Patient death

Circumstances in which the second-year fellow MUST contact the supervising attending:

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- a. Every ICU admission
- b. General ward consultations for urgent conditions
- c. Transfer of any patient to a higher level of care
- d. Code Blue Team activation
- e. Patient/family dissatisfaction or request for a care meeting
- f. Patient requesting discharge AMA
- g. Any procedure not credentialed by the Clinical Competency Committee
- h. Patient death
- i. Each resident/fellow must know the limits of his/her scope of authority, and the circumstances under which he/she is permitted to act with conditional independence.

REFERENCES

<https://www.acgme.org/>

AMENDMENTS OR TERMINATION OF THIS POLICY

Creighton University reserves the right to modify, amend or terminate this policy at any time.

The GME policy supersedes all program level policies regarding this area/topic. In the event of any discrepancies between program policies and the GME policy, the GME policy shall govern.