

## Policy on Faculty Appointments for Physicians Supervising Medical Students

Office of Accountability:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	Associate Dean, MD Program
Approver:	MD Curriculum & Program Committee
Scope:	This policy applies to all primary preceptors and supporting preceptors who work with medical students at the University of Alberta irrespective of the geographically distributed site/campus at which they are located.

### **OVERVIEW**

This policy provides for the supervision of medical students on clerkship rotations at all sites of the MD Program at the University of Alberta by preceptors who have an appointment with the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD).

### **ACCREDITATION STANDARDS**

The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools' (CACMS) requires all physicians who supervise medical students in required learning experiences to hold a faculty appointment in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry (FoMD). Specifically, element 9.2 states that the medical school must ensure that the supervision of medical students in required clinical learning experiences is provided by faculty members of the medical school.

### **POLICY**

All physicians who directly supervise medical students as the primary preceptor responsible for the student experience in required clinical learning experiences must have a faculty appointment (clinical or academic) in the FoMD. This does not apply to residents who supervise, teach and assess medical students as part of their position.

**Primary preceptors** are faculty-appointed physicians who directly supervise medical students' clinical learning experiences and assessments. In addition, the primary preceptor oversees any student engagement with other faculty or non-faculty supporting preceptors or other healthcare providers. Primary preceptors are required to have a faculty appointment (academic or clinical) with the FoMD prior to being assigned to a student.

**Supporting preceptors** interact with medical students and may be involved in teaching them, but are not primarily responsible for overseeing the student’s clinical experiences and assessments. Supporting preceptors should have a faculty appointment (academic or clinical) with the FoMD.

Expectations of both primary preceptors and medical students related to the supervision of students in required clinical learning experiences are outlined in [Supervision of Medical Students on Clinical Rotations Policy](#).

## **RELATED POLICIES**

<a href="#">Preparation of Resident and Non-Faculty Instructors Policy</a>
<a href="#">Conflict of Interest in Assessment Policy</a>
<a href="#">Supervision of Medical Students on Clinical Rotations Policy</a>

## **RELATED LINKS**

<a href="#">Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)</a>
<a href="#">Discrimination, Harassment and Duty to Accommodate Policy</a>
<a href="#">Office of Advocacy and Wellbeing</a>
<a href="#">Office of Professionalism</a>
College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) <a href="#">Standards of Practice</a>

## **DEFINITIONS**

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.	
CACMS	Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools
Required clinical learning experiences	A subset of required learning experiences that take place in a health care setting involving patient care that are required of a student in order to complete the medical education program. These required clinical learning experiences may occur any time during the medical educational program.

## **APPROVAL HISTORY**

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
MD Curriculum & Program	Approved	March 9, 2019



# UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA

Committee		
Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program	minor editing changes to format of the policy completed	May 30, 2020
MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved	26 August 2021
MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved with new definitions of primary and supporting preceptors.	20 February 2025