

Providers of Health Services to University of Alberta Medical Students Policy

Office of Accountability:	Dean, Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry
Office of Administrative Responsibility:	MD Program
Approver:	MD Curriculum and Program Committee
Scope:	Compliance with this policy extends to all members of the MD Program community, irrespective of the geographically distributed site to which they are assigned.

OVERVIEW

Health professionals who provide any health care services to a University of Alberta medical student must have no involvement in assessing their academic performance or participate in decisions regarding their promotion and/or graduation.

ACCREDITATION

This policy addresses Element 12.5 of the **Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)** standard, which states:

Element 12.5 - Providers of Student Health Services/Location of Student Health Records: The health professionals who provide health services, including psychiatric/psychological counseling, to a medical student have no involvement in the academic assessment or advancement of the medical student receiving those services, excluding exceptional circumstances. A medical school ensures that medical student health records are maintained in accordance with legal requirements for security, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility.

POLICY

1. OFFICE OF ADVOCACY & WELLBEING (OAW)
 - a. Clinicians from the **Office of Advocacy & Wellbeing** are not permitted to participate in a course/clerkship that requires the high stakes or summative assessment of student performance or participate in decisions regarding their academic promotion and/or graduation.
2. UNIVERSITY HEALTH CENTRE (UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA)



- a. Clinicians from the **University Health Centre (University of Alberta)** are not permitted to participate in a course/clerkship that requires the high stakes or summative assessment of student performance or participate in decisions regarding their academic promotion and/or graduation.

3. SMALL GROUP FACILITATORS

- a. Students and small group facilitators are asked at the beginning of the course or session if they have a potential conflict of interest with each other (e.g. student is related to the small group leader, is a family friend, has an established patient-physician relationship).
- b. Students and small group facilitators notify the course administrator if there is a potential conflict of interest. The type of conflict of interest is not disclosed.
- c. The course administrator facilitates small group assignment changes without inquiring as to the nature of the conflict of interest.

4. CLERKSHIP ROTATIONS

- a. Students are provided with information about potential student-teacher confidentiality on day one of their clerkship rotation.
- b. Faculty members are provided with lists of students that will be rotating through their service. If a faculty member determines that there is an upcoming student that has been a patient, the faculty should alert the course coordinator and follow the [MD Program's Conflict of Interest in Student Assessment Policy](#)
- c. Students notify the clerkship administrator if they have been treated by a clinician they are scheduled to work with. Details of the conflict of interest are not disclosed.
- d. The clerkship administrator facilitates schedule change requests without inquiring as to the nature of the conflict of interest.
- e. The clerkship administrator will not contact the clerkship coordinator, primary preceptor, or resident with the reason behind any schedule changes.
- f. Schedule changes are not seen as an unusual event by the clerkship coordinator, primary preceptor or resident because these changes occasionally occur.
- g. If the clerkship coordinator has previously provided clinical care to a medical student-patient, he or she can have a co-director or delegate oversee the medical student.

The MD Program's [Conflict of Interest in Student Assessment Policy](#) provides more detail about how to report potential conflicts of interest related to assessment, promotion, or graduation.

DEFINITIONS

Any definitions listed in the following table apply to this document only with no implied or intended institution-wide use.



<p>High Stakes, Summative Assessment</p>	<p>Assessment of student learning, achievement, or performance conducted at the end of an instructional period, such as a course, unit, or program. It is designed to measure the extent to which learning objectives have been met and often contributes to final grades. Examples include final exams, OSCEs, or workplace-based clinical assessments. Summative assessments are typically high-stakes and focus on outcomes rather than ongoing feedback.</p>
<p>Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS)</p>	<p>The Committee on Accreditation of Canadian Medical Schools (CACMS) ensures that Canadian medical faculties' MD programs meet the quality expected when producing tomorrow's doctors. Medical schools demonstrating compliance are afforded accreditation, a necessary condition for a program's graduates to be licensed as physicians.</p>
<p>Office of Advocacy & Wellbeing (OAW)</p>	<p>The Office of Advocacy & Wellness (OAW) in the Faculty of Medicine & Dentistry at the University of Alberta looks after issues pertaining to the health and well-being of learners and faculty. The office also advocates on their behalf.</p>
<p>University of Alberta University Health Centre</p>	<p>The mission of the University Health Centre is to enhance the well-being of the University of Alberta community by providing accessible and compassionate health and wellness services.</p>

RELATED LINKS

[Boundary Violations: Personal](#) (CPASA Standard of Practice)

[Conflict of Interest in Assessment Policy](#)

APPROVER	STATUS	DATE
<p>Kent Stobart, Associate Dean, MD Program</p>	<p>Approved</p>	<p>02 December 2013</p>
<p>Dr. Tracey Hillier, Associate Dean, MD Program</p>	<p>Revisions made: Update Office of Advocacy and Wellness and University Health Centre: update CACMS standard</p>	<p>12 June 2020</p>



MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved with minor editorial changes and updates to links	21 October 2021
MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved with changes to point 4 of the policy to include all clerkship rotations, not just psychiatry as in previous versions.	16 March 2023
MD Curriculum & Program Committee	Approved with minor changes to process and addition of promotion or graduation decisions.	20 March 2025