UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

Required Clinical Experiences Policy

Roles and Responsibilities

Policy Contact	Assistant Dean for the Clinical Curriculum
Responsible	CCC, CYC
Accountable	Clerkship Directors
Consulted	CCC, OME, CYC
Informed	Clinical Faculty, Residents, and Students

LCME Standards

6.2 Required Clinical Experiences
The faculty of a medical school define the types of patients and clinical conditions that medical students are required to encounter, the skills to be performed by medical students, the appropriate clinical settings for these experiences, and the expected levels of medical student responsibility.

Scope and Purpose

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that medical students complete the required clinical experiences during the clerkship phase of the curriculum and to provide guidelines for the identification and use of alternate clinical experiences.

The policy applies to all medical students completing required clerkships to satisfy requirements for the MD degree.

Policy Statement

During clerkship experiences in the MD program, all students are required to complete the clinical experiences identified in the clerkship syllabus or other course documentation. When specific patient encounters or clinical skills requirements cannot be met, medical students will be provided with alternate means for meeting the required experience requirement(s). Certain clinical experiences are critical to clerkship learning objectives and cannot be satisfied through alternate means. No more than 20% of medical students in a required clerkship should be using alternate means to satisfy clinical experience requirements.

Procedures

1. If 20% or more of medical students in an academic year cannot meet the required clinical experiences for a required clerkship, the Assistant Dean for the Clinical Curriculum should be notified at the conclusion of the block. The information should be included in the review of required clinical experiences by clerkship during the Clinical Years Committee when it is reviewed semi-annually.
2. Clerkship faculty should continually be working to identify alternate means and assessing those alternatives to determine if they can be used to satisfy clerkship requirements.

3. If 20% or more of students cannot meet the clinical experiences for a required clerkship during more than one block in the academic year, clerkship faculty are required to assess the reasons for the lack of experiences, consult the professional literature to determine if other experiences and skills could be substituted for existing ones, and decide if changes should be made to the list of required experiences.
4. Any changes made to the required clinical experiences should be reflected in the clerkship syllabus, student patient experience logs, and MedHub (if needed).
5. All data and other information related to these decisions will be reported to the Curriculum Coordinating Committee, the Clinical Years Committee, and the Medical Education Continuous Quality Improvement Committee. The CCC and MECQI can request additional follow-up and reporting based on the issues or changes being monitored.

Exceptions

N/A

Sanctions

Failure to identify appropriate alternate means or having more than 20% of medical students not receiving opportunities for required experience for two or more blocks during an academic year could trigger a phase review for the clerkship in advance of its next scheduled review. Clerkship Directors who do not adhere to the policy may require counseling and remediation by the Office of Medical Education.

Definitions

Alternate means refers to other similar types of patient encounters, related or supplemental skills, simulations, case studies, and other pedagogically sound and appropriate means as determined by faculty.

Forms

N/A

Related Policies/Procedures

Comparability of Education Guidelines for Distributed Clinical Sites (TBD)

History

Revised:

Approved: CYC, June 13, 2023; CCC, June 20, 2023