

**University of Northern Colorado
College of Osteopathic Medicine**

Policy: Supervision of Students and Level of Student Responsibility

Responsible Party: Associate Dean, Clinical Education

COCA Standard: 5.4-1

Review Frequency: Annually and as needed.

An osteopathic medical student is not legally or ethically permitted to practice medicine or assume responsibility for patient care. A student may assist in the care of a patient, but only under the supervision of a licensed physician. The attending physician is responsible for the medical care of the patient. A student may not administer therapy or perform procedures, except under the supervision of a licensed physician to whom the student has been formally assigned.

First- and second-year UNC COM students must always be directly supervised in the clinical setting.

Third- and fourth-year students on clinical rotations may perform the following under indirect supervision:

- Take a patient history.
- Perform a physical examination.
- Gather the results of diagnostic tests, nursing reports and other information.
- Develop interim assessments and recommendations.
- Initiation of BLS protocols in a patient in cardiac arrest

Students must be directly observed by their preceptor for the first instance of any of the following and may be approved to perform these activities independently, with the preceptor present at the site but not necessarily at the bedside, at the discretion of the supervising attending.

• Genitourinary, rectal, or breast examinations, with the appropriate chaperone present

- Obtaining peripheral intravenous access
- Nasogastric tube placement • Arterial blood gasses
- Phlebotomy
- Suturing of simple lacerations
- Incision and drainage of a cutaneous abscess

More advanced procedures should only be performed under the direct observation of the preceptor. Such procedures include but are not limited to:

- Arthrocentesis.
- Central venous access
- Lumbar puncture
- Orotracheal intubation
- Delivery of an infant • Assistance in surgery
- Placement of an intravenous pacemaker