



**WRNMMC Policy and Procedure for Student Clinical Observer  
Opportunities Program (SCOOP)**

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**Purpose:**

To develop and clarify procedures to respond appropriately to requests from individuals who wish to participate in activities that involve observation in Graduate Medical Education or Allied Health Programs at the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**Policy:**

The Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (WRNMMC) provides observer opportunities for high school students, college students and medical students who are enrolled in a Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) accredited medical school.

**Definition:**

**Medical Student Observer:** Those medical students without an M.D. or D.O degree wishing to observe to gain medical knowledge and exposure to certain patient-care protocols with an interest in future service with military medicine and/or Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**College Student:** Those students with an acceptable grade point average currently enrolled in an accredited program at an accredited institution, wishing to observe to gain medical knowledge and exposure to certain patient care protocols with the hopes of satisfying their interest in becoming part of The United States Military as well as an interest in future service with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**High School Observer:** Those students with an acceptable grade point average wishing to observe to gain medical knowledge and exposure to certain patient care protocols with the hopes of satisfying their interest in becoming part of The United States Military as well as an interest in future service with the Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.

**Responsibilities:**

Approval for an observer opportunity is at the discretion of the WRNMMC Program Director or Department Chief.

**Procedures:**

- Students interested in an observation experience should secure the sponsorship by a staff member of a clinical or nursing department within the medical center.
- All applicants will be directed to the WRNMMC Graduate Medical Education Office for in-processing. They should have a statement of sponsorship from their clinical or nursing sponsor.
- A physician or nursing supervisor will be appointed as the Faculty Sponsor. This individual may delegate day-to-day direct supervision to specifically identified physician or nursing staff, but the Faculty Sponsor will be ultimately responsible for all supervision and clinical activity.

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### **Procedures:** (continued)

- Each department must have on file all items listed below:
  - Letter of Good Standing from the student's registrar's office, Dean's office, or Principal's Office on official letterhead. The letter should state that the student is currently enrolled and in good academic standing, and not on any probationary status
  - HIPAA training must be completed valid through the end of the observation period. HIPAA training is an annual requirement. If the 12 month validation period ends prior to the completion of the observation period, it must be updated prior to beginning the observation activity. A certificate of completion will be submitted and maintained in the GME office
  - The following health documentation is required:
    - Proof of an influenza vaccination within the previous 12 months is required.
    - Proof of TB testing in the previous 12 months. This may include a PPD skin test, or documentation of TB serum testing
  - Proof of current health insurance, valid in the U.S. Observers are NOT covered under the WRNMMC Workers Compensation policy. The WRNMMC will not be liable for any injury the observer obtains while participating in this Observer Opportunity Program. Should the observer suffer an injury or illness during the duty day, they will be referred to the WRNMMC Emergency Department for triage. Emergency care will be rendered, but if there is no immediate risk to life, limb, or eye-sight, they will be referred to a nearby civilian health care facility unless they are a military healthcare beneficiary.
  - Security clearance is a requirement for all students in the SCOOP program for over 30 days. The student needs to apply for a security clearance through NSA-B. Students should be aware that this may take up to 60 days.

### **Scope of responsibilities:**

- The Observer must be directly supervised at all times by their Faculty Sponsor. This individual may delegate day-to-day direct supervision to specifically identified physician or nursing staff, but the Faculty Sponsor will be ultimately responsible for all supervision and clinical activity. Observers are not covered under WRNMMC Liability Insurance
- The Observer may not see or interact with patients independently. The student must inform all patients that he or she is an observer and ask permission to observe. If permission is refused, the student will excuse himself or herself from the clinical encounter.
- Observers may not provide medical care. This includes independently taking a medical history, examining a patient, providing medical advice to a patient, or assisting in any surgery or other procedures.
- Observers will not have access to the medical records, either electronic or otherwise. They may not make entries into official patient charts. They may not make copies of any patient chart or other materials identified with patients names or other identifying information. Observers may not have independent access to patient information (electronic or written) or restricted areas of the WRNMMC or any of its affiliates.

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### **Scope of responsibilities:** (continued)

- Observers may not write orders for patients or make verbal orders for patients. Observers may not bill for any service.
- Observers who are high school or college students will not wear a white coat or other clothing that would potentially identify them as a staff member, Resident/Fellow, Medical Student or Staff Physician. Nursing students may wear any uniform issued by their school. Observers will dress professionally and in accordance with the WRNMMC Code of Conduct.
- Observers receive no financial support from WRNMMC. No parking privileges will be provided so alternative transportation must be arranged by the Observer. Observers are responsible for all of their own expenses, including meals.
- Observers will follow all applicable WRNMMC Policies.