

## PROCEDURE GME33

**Subject:** MEDICAL STUDENT ROTATIONS

**Effective Date:** OCTOBER 2016

**Applies to:** THE METHODIST HOSPITAL  
SYSTEM – GME PROGRAMS

**Date Revised/Reviewed:** JULY 2022

**Originating Area:** GRADUATE MEDICAL  
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**Target Review Date:** JULY 2025

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### **I. GENERAL STATEMENT**

The Texas Medical Board (TMB) has separate and distinct guidelines governing the supervision and rotation of medical students who are enrolled at a Texas medical school as a full-time student or visiting student and those who are enrolled in institutions outside of the State of Texas.

For medical students enrolled as a full-time or visiting student in any Texas medical school, either allopathic or osteopathic, the supervising physician must have an active and unrestricted Texas license. The institution or hospital where the rotation occurs does not need an affiliation agreement with the medical school.

For medical students who are not enrolled in a Texas medical school, the rules are different and apply to all US allopathic and osteopathic medical schools, including foreign medical schools. Non-Texas medical school students may only rotate to hospitals or teaching institutions that sponsor or participate in an ACGME-accredited program of graduate medical education, or a program accredited or approved by the American Osteopathic Association or the TMB in the same area of education as requested by the medical student. In addition, the hospital or teaching institution must have an affiliation agreement with the medical student's school.

Students from non-Texas medical schools who are accepted into an area with no accredited program may not receive credit for their rotation from their school or licensing boards. This has been the case with some international medical student graduates who completed rotations at hospitals with no program in the specialty. These graduates have been unable to obtain a full Texas license because their medical student curriculum does not meet the standards for Texas licensure. Most foreign medical graduates who are US citizens intend to participate in a US residency program and to practice in the US. It is unethical for Houston Methodist to offer unaccredited rotations to them and risk their eventual career.

### **II. REQUIREMENTS**

A. TMB Rules, Chapter 162 (§162.1), Supervision of Medical School and Physician Assistant Students, differentiates medical student rotation requirements based on in-state and out of state medical student enrollment. The policy states:

(a) In order to supervise a medical student who is enrolled at a Texas medical school as a full-time student or visiting student the physician must have an active and unrestricted Texas license.

(b) In order to supervise a medical student who does not meet the criteria in subsection (a) of this section (i.e. student is enrolled in a medical school outside of the State of Texas) the supervising physician must:

(1) have an active and unrestricted Texas license;

- (2) hold a faculty position in the graduate medical education program in the same specialty in which the student will receive undergraduate medical education;
- (3) supervise the student during the educational period; and
- (4) supervise the student's medical education in either a Texas hospital or teaching institution, which sponsors or participates in a program of graduate medical education accredited by the Accrediting Council for Graduate Medical Education, the American Osteopathic Association, or the Texas Medical Board in the same subject as the medical or osteopathic medical education in which the hospital or teaching institution has an agreement with the applicant's school.

(c) If the physician is not licensed in Texas as required in subsection (a) or (b) of this section, the physician must be employed by the federal government and maintain an active and unrestricted license.

(d) Physician applicants who receive medical education in the United States in settings that do not comply with statutory requirements set forth in Texas Occupations Code §155.003(b) - (c) may be ineligible for licensure.

B. Medical students outside of the State of Texas may only rotate in a program of graduate medical education that has been accredited by the ACGME, AOA, or TMB, in the same specialty as the rotation required by the student and cited in an affiliation agreement with the student's school.

Consequently, **all** third year clerkship rotations from medical students enrolled in **any** medical school must occur in an ACGME-accredited residency or fellowship program sponsored by Methodist.

All Houston Methodist GME Programs have the right to refuse to accept medical student rotators. Reasons may include lack of clinical experience, lack of sufficient faculty for supervision, too many learners in a designated area, etc. Medical students should contact the Houston Methodist Program directly to find out if the program will accept medical student rotators.

C. Before any arrangements are made with medical students not enrolled in Texas schools, the physician or coordinator should consult with the Education Institute and Graduate Medical Education Office. This discussion will identify any problems to be solved and will prevent any student from rotating in an area that cannot be counted toward program completion and may adversely affect future licensure.

D. Acceptance of any medical student into a Houston Methodist GME Program for a rotation is no guarantee that the medical student will be invited for a residency interview.

E. The program must report circumstances when the presence of other learners has interfered with the residents' education to the DIO and GMEC.

### **III. PROCESS:**

When TMB and institutional guidelines have been applied and the rotation meets the requirements, the Education Institute office will work with the faculty supervisor at TMH and the student's institutional contact to initiate an affiliation agreement. Only medical students enrolled in Texas medical schools can rotate at TMH without an active affiliation agreement.

One of the factors that have hindered successful completion of affiliation agreements with medical schools, domestic and international, has been their ability to meet the general and professional liability requirements determined by Risk and Compliance at the System level. If the medical school is able to obtain the proper liability limits, those will be included in the agreement and a copy of the Certificate of Insurance obtained at that time.

Methodist has requirements for entering into affiliation agreements and some of these involve general and professional liability requirements determined by Risk and Compliance at the System level. Some schools cannot comply with other standards, such as tracking of students. As a result,

Methodist Hospital will not enter into agreements with the Caribbean medical schools; several US medical schools have also been unable to meet requirements for doing business with Methodist. TMHS Corporate Risk & Compliance has obtained a policy to cover international medical students during their approved rotation at TMH when the medical school is unable to obtain adequate coverage on their own. The cost is the responsibility of either the student or the institution and is currently \$1,000 per policy slot. A medical student will not be processed until the COI from the institution evidencing coverage at the approved levels or compensation for TMHS provided coverage has been received.

Once the affiliation agreement has been fully executed by both parties, the students may begin the process for applying for the rotation. The Methodist Education and Research Learner Information Network (MERLIN) is the application system used for the process of applying for a rotation MERLIN can be found at <http://www.houstonmethodist.org/education/admissions-application-process/> and clicking on the MERLIN link.

#### **IV. COMMITTEE REVIEWING OR APPROVING POLICY**

Graduate Medical Education Committee [10 November 2016] [8 July 2022]

##### **AUTHORITATIVE REFERENCES:**

Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, Common Program Requirements, I. E.

Texas Medical Board Rules, Chapter 162