Medical Student Policy

Date Approved
November 2026

Date Effective
November 1, 2026

Policy #
UME.45.v.2

Consent for Sensitive Exams Under Anesthesia

Senior Leader: Medical School Dean

Responsible University Officer: Senior Associate Dean for Undergraduate Medical Education

Policy Owner: Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum

Policy Contact: Assistant Dean for Clinical Curriculum

Policy Statement

Educational sensitive exams under anesthesia will only be performed when they repeat or are equivalent to an exam that is performed as part of the planned procedure.

Attending physicians who supervise University of Minnesota Medical School (UMMS) students in performing educational sensitive exams will obtain consent, in advance, from the patient or their surrogate decision-maker, for any educational exam that will be performed under anesthesia and document this consent in the medical record.

Supervisors will only permit students to perform an educational sensitive exam if consent has been granted and is noted in the medical record. The student will be informed that consent was obtained for the educational sensitive exam before it is performed. If this does not occur prior to initiating the exam, students will confirm that consent was obtained before performing the exam. Students will decline exams that are not consented without risk of retaliation or other negative consequences.

Reason for Policy

The University of Minnesota Medical School commits, in all its work, to:

- honor the autonomy and self-determination of our patients. reduce ambiguity and empower students to consistently confirm consent. support student training by demonstrating the importance of patient consent, especially for exams that can be experienced as intrusive, uncomfortable, or have the potential to introduce historical trauma into the medical encounter.
- support the achievement of Graduation Competencies
- conform to the Centers for Medical & Medicaid Services, "Revisions and clarifications to Hospital Interpretive Guidelines for Informed Consent."

Procedures

1. Supervisors overseeing educational sensitive exams under anesthesia will operate within their scope of practice.
2. Educational sensitive exams under anesthesia will be performed while under usual supervision. For a detailed policy governing student supervision, see the *Student Supervision During Clinical Activities* policy.
3. Students will report an alleged violation of the policy to the policy contact as part of their professional responsibilities.
4. If there is any potential for repercussions to the student, named individuals will be excluded from an assessment role for the student.

5. Any suspected retaliation for a student adhering to this policy will be addressed according to the University of Minnesota's policy on retaliation.

Additional Contacts

Role/Title	Name	Email
Director, Clinical Immersion and Transitions	Holly Proffitt	proff022@umn.edu

Definitions

Educational exam: Physical examinations performed exclusively for the purpose of demonstrating anatomical findings and improving exam technique and accuracy on the part of a learner. Educational exams are not required to perform a procedure or intervention on behalf of the patient.

Sensitive exam: Pelvic, breast, urogenital, or rectal examination.

Under Anesthesia: Any change in patient consciousness or awareness brought about through medical intervention.

Historical trauma: The cumulative emotional and psychological wounding over generations inflicted on a specific gender, cultural, racial, national, ethnic, or minority identity group.

Related Information

Visit the Medical Student Policies Webpage for information on these related policies:

- Student Supervision During Clinical Activities Policy

Policy Type

Academic

History

Approved: Education Council, May 2021
Amended: Reviewed and approved, May 2022
Reviewed and Approved: Medical School Education Committee (MSEC), October 2024
Reviewed and Approved: Clinical Education Committee (CEC) as per RCC.8[1], November 2026

[1] Refer to the "Roles in Curricular Components" Table in the MSEC SOP