


Policy for the Provision of Health Care Services to Students]

	<p>Policy for the Provision of Health Care Services to Students</p>	Implementation Date/ Effective Date:	November 1, 2019
		Contact:	Dr. Omar Pèrez
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		Approval by	
		Ratify by	

Rationale

LCME element 12.5 (Non-involvement of Providers of Student Health Services in Student Assessment) states that “: The health professionals who provide health services, including psychiatric/psychological counseling, to a medical student have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the medical student receiving those services, excluding exceptional circumstances. A medical school ensures that medical student health records are maintained in accordance with legal requirements for security, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility”).

The Universidad Central del Caribe is sensible to the intention of this accreditation element in protection of the student’s integrity. Thus, it is the university commitment to make this policy applicable to students in all academic programs.

Background

It is imperative that the health professionals who provide health services, including psychiatric/psychological counseling, to a medical student have no involvement in the academic assessment or promotion of the students receiving those services. . Health care professionals who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health care services (e.g., treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, substance abuse, rape) to medical students shall not be involved in the evaluation or promotion of those students.

Faculty members and residents with student assessment responsibilities are precluded from evaluating students that are their patients because of dual-relationship and conflict of interest issues. The conflict created by this dual role could affect both the quality of medical care and the content of evaluations:

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- a student-patient might be less likely to report a sensitive medical issue (e.g., drug abuse) to his/her physician if that physician will be providing an evaluation or grade
- a faculty member's evaluation or grade (which is likely to include some subjective elements) might be, despite the evaluator's commitment to neutrality, positively or negatively affected as a result of the therapeutic relationship


In instances of pre-existing doctor-patient/student relationships, the physician must discuss with the student the potential for a dual relationship and inform the student that he/she will abstain him- or herself from any situation in which a formal evaluation is required.

In situations of emergency in which an appropriate referral is not available, a student may be cared for by a faculty member or resident. In this circumstance as well, if the student health condition allows it, the physician must discuss with the student the potential for a dual relationship and abstain him- or herself from any situation in which a formal evaluation is required.

The Office of Guidance and Counseling may recommend to the students to visit a health care professional or counselors. As a general practice, the Office will not refer students to a health care professional that is in the position of assessing student performance or taking part in the evaluations and promotions process or to any preferred or specific provider.

The university must ensure that student health records are maintained in accordance with legal requirements for security, privacy, confidentiality, and accessibility.

Prepared, reviewed and
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