LCME Standard MS-27-A states that “The health professionals who provide psychiatric/psychological counseling or other sensitive health services to medical students must have no involvement in the academic evaluation or promotion of the students receiving those services.” Because the definition of “sensitive issues” can vary widely by physician and/or student, and because most faculty members and residents are at one time or another responsible for the assessment of students, the following policy has been established.

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:

- 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 will discuss with the student the potential for a dual relationship and inform the student that a referral will be coordinated to avoid any potential ethical issue especially if a formal evaluation will be required as part of the new academic relationship.

The Office of Guidance and Counseling is the primary student service unit in a position to channel and address student health and counseling needs. As a general practice the Office never refers a student for health services in the community with someone that is known to be affiliated to the UCC faculty in a position of assessing student performance or taking part in the evaluations and promotions process.

In addition, medical students will be given information about available medical and counseling services through several mechanisms:
- During incoming students orientation activities-Students receive information about medical and counseling services provided by the
UCCSOM and nearby facilities and through coordination of services by the counselors;

- The students that have their health insurance sponsored by the university receive the Providers directory guide and copy of the specific insurance coverage for their review and reference;
- Active referral process from the Dean of Students in close collaboration with the counselors.

All of these mechanisms are focused on providing information to facilitate access to the appropriate services available in the community without generating any uncomfortable situation for both, the student and the health professional.

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