

TITLE: Conflict of interest in clinical placements—Policy

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Table of contents

PURPOSE..... 2

CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN CLINICAL PLACEMENTS..... 2

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DURING OSCE 2



PURPOSE

To clarify the policy on conflict of interest in clinical placements and to add the portion related to the Objectively Structured Clinical Examinations (OSCE) in Undergraduate Medical Education. The proposed changes are identified in the document below.

Policy

2.4.1 Pre-clerkship and 2.4.2 Clerkship

CONFLICT OF INTEREST IN CLINICAL PLACEMENTS

Students cannot be supervised in any clinical placements (i.e., core rotation, selective or elective) by a member of their immediate family, extended family including in-laws treating physician or others close to them who could compromise the objectivity of the student's assessment. In addition, students are not permitted to do clinical placements with his or her treating physician. Students must immediately notify the Medical Education Office or Rotation Coordinators to request reassignment if their assigned placement is in violation of this policy. If a physician has treated a student in the past, they should make efforts to avoid any future situation that would put them in a position of evaluating that student.

Students are not permitted to participate in clinical placements at our affiliated clinical care facilities, including University of Ottawa Health Services, with a physician that has treated them in the past.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DURING OSCE

The examiner cannot be a treating physician, a student's family member or have a close relationship with the student. He or she must notify the Exam Center prior to the OSCE if they have a conflict of interest. If during the course of the examination, the examiner finds out he or she has a conflict of interest with a student, the examiner must recuse him/herself and the student is then examined at a separate track after the exam. If the examiner or the student perceives a potential conflict of interest, he or she must terminate the encounter and notify staff immediately. The student will then be permitted to complete the station with a different examiner at the end of the examination.