

Policy/Procedure Title	Physician Observation of Medical Procedures	Manual Location	
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Purpose: To provide a process for Actively Credentialed Physicians to have medical procedures observed by Non Credentialed Physicians for the purpose of professional development; to maintain patient safety and high quality patient outcomes.

Covered Persons: All Medical Staff; Licensed Physicians

Definitions:

“Actively Credentialed Physician” shall mean a physician that maintains full privileges at the Hospital as provided in the Medical Staff Bylaws.

“Non Credentialed Physicians” shall mean those physicians that have a valid license to practice medicine, are not currently and have never previously been excluded from participation in any government payor program including Medicare and Medicaid, have valid liability insurance, and have agreed in writing to comply with this policy.

“Observation” shall mean the passive viewing of a surgical procedure from a monitor outside of the sterile surgical field for the purpose of professional development. Observation shall in no way imply training, teaching, or any other educational opportunity. Additionally, intervention by the Non Credentialed Physician in any medical treatment at Hospital is explicitly prohibited.

Requirements:

An Actively Credentialed Physician who desires to host an Observation at the Hospital for one or more Non Credentialed Physicians shall request an Observation opportunity by submitting an Observation Request Form to the Hospital CEO, Medical Staff Coordinator, and Chief of Surgery. Upon approval by the Hospital CEO, Medical Staff Coordinator, and Chief of Surgery for the Observation, the following must be completed and submitted at least seven days before the proposed date of the Observation:

1. Physician Acknowledgement of Observation Procedure and Hospital Policy (“Physician Acknowledgement”) and
2. Patient Informed Consent

It is the Credentialed Physician’s responsibility to submit on behalf of the Non Credentialed Physician a completed and signed Physician Acknowledgement. Only those Non Credentialed Physicians who provide a completed Physician Acknowledgement and certify that they are currently licensed in good standing, are not currently and have never previously been suspended, excluded, or debarred from any government payor program, hold valid liability insurance, and understand and agree that the approval of the Observation in no way permits the Non Credentialed Physician from providing treatment to any Hospital patient or having any of the privileges of Credentialed Physicians will be granted permission for the Observation.

The Non Credentialed Physician will not at any time or for any reason enter the sterile surgical field and shall remain in the area designated for the Observation.

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The Non Credentialed Physician will maintain the confidentiality of any protected health information he obtains during the Observation.

The Non Credentialed Physician will not publish in written form, or otherwise, that he has received any training, teaching, or other educational opportunity from the Hospital.

The Non Credentialed Physician must follow the instructions of the Hospital's Medical Staff and Nursing Staff at all times that he is permitted access to the Hospital for the purpose of Observation. If a Non Credentialed Physician is deemed by the Medical Staff or Nursing Staff to be disruptive to Hospital operations or patient care, he shall immediately leave the Hospital when requested. The Hospital at any time, or for any reason, may end the Non Credentialed Physician's participation in the Observation.

The Non Credentialed Physician will not hold Hospital, its employees, owners, directors and officers responsible or liable for any injury or damage he receives while on Hospital premises.

Only Non Credentialed Physicians, as defined in this policy, are eligible to participate in Observations at the Hospital. A Non Credentialed Physician will not be allowed to participate in Observations if he is related by blood, adoption, marriage, or otherwise to the patient undergoing the procedure.

This policy specifically prohibits Observation by any one other than a Non Credentialed Physician as defined in this policy. Observation by high school students, college students and any other students, out side of a formal medical education program, is strictly prohibited. Please see the Job Shadowing Policy for programs acceptable for students who are not part of a formal education program.

Observation is only available to Non-Credentialed Physicians who have received specific authority under this policy and to providers involved in the patient's care.

Any questions regarding this policy should be directed to the Quality and Resource Management Department of Community Health Systems located at the Corporate Office.