



Medical Professional Education (MPE)

Overview

Integrating education of medical students and trainees into a hospital's operations needs to be consistent with the hospital's mission, strategic plans, resource allocation, and quality and patient safety program. The MPE standards emphasize the safety and quality of care provided to patients cared for by trainees and students as part of the hospital's services. For the professional education programs, both graduate and undergraduate, the hospital's governing entity and leaders are responsible to ensure that there is appropriate supervision of patient care, treatment, and services delivered in all teaching settings. Ensuring a rich and meaningful experience for medical students and trainees requires many factors in addition to the commitment of the governing entity and hospital leaders.

Trainees and students meet the following criteria:

- Are oriented to the organization and relevant departments.
- Understand and participate in quality improvement activities.
- Actively engage in the hospital's culture of safety.

The hospital's governing entity and leaders do the following:

- Create processes for the direction and accountability of the hospital teaching program medical staff members and other involved staff.
- Are knowledgeable about the teaching programs based on timely data-driven information.
- Require improvement processes in the teaching programs related to patient care when opportunities for improvement emerge.

For the standards language in this chapter and in the SQE chapter, the following terminology and associated definitions apply:

Medical Staff

All physicians, dentists, and other professionals who are licensed to practice independently (without supervision) and who provide preventive, curative, restorative, surgical, rehabilitative, or other medical or dental services to patients; or who provide interpretative services for patients, such as pathology, radiology, or laboratory services. All classifications of appointments, all types, and levels of staff (employed, honorary, contract, visiting, and private community staff members), are included. Visiting staff include those who are teachers/tutors, and others allowed to provide patient care services temporarily. A hospital must define those other clinical staff, such as "house officers," "hospitalists," "fellows," and "junior doctors," who are no longer in training, but may or may not be permitted by the hospital to practice independently.

The term *medical staff* is thus inclusive of all physicians and other professionals permitted to treat patients with partial or full independence, regardless of their relationship to the hospital (for example, employed staff or independent consultants). In some cultures, traditional medicine practitioners, acupuncturists, chiropractors, and others, may be permitted by law and the hospital to practice independently. Thus, they are considered medical staff members, and these standards apply in full.