

Operating Room (OR) Supervision

Site Applicability

PHC Operating Rooms.

Scope

This policy applies to all physicians, anesthesiologists and surgeons treating patients within the operating rooms at Providence Health Care

Purpose

To provide guidance to attending physicians, anesthesiologists and surgeons on their duty to supervise trainees in the PHC operating rooms

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the attending staff to ensure that adequate supervision of trainees occurs.

It is important to actively consider the knowledge, skills, and experience of the individual for the context at hand. The attending staff should then determine the degree of supervision needed.

Consent

- Patients must be made aware of the presence and participation of trainees in their care.
 - The PHC Consent form contains the statement:
I understand that Providence Health Care participates in medical education and quality improvement and as a result I agree that:
 1. *Supervised health practitioners-in-training who are in approved education programs may participate in my care.*

Refer to [B-00-11-10110](#) - Consent to Health Care policy.

Guideline

The Canadian Medical Protective Association defines different levels of supervision.

▪ Direct supervision

Observing while being in the same room with a trainee allows for close monitoring of performance and immediate guidance. In an operating room setting, this would refer to the

supervising surgeon being scrubbed in alongside the trainee. In certain contexts, direct supervision can also be conducted by video or one-way mirror.

- **Immediately available supervision**

In this situation, a supervisor is not necessarily in the room with the trainee but is immediately available to come to the aid of the trainee if problems arise. In surgery for example, this would refer to a supervisor being in the OR suite but not necessarily scrubbed in for the case.

- **Local supervision**

The supervisor providing local supervision is in the hospital or clinic and available at short notice.

- **Distant supervision**

This type of supervision involves a trainee and supervisor not being in the same building at the same time. The supervisor is available for advice on-call and is able to come to the hospital within an appropriate timeframe.

Distant Supervision within the operating rooms at PHC:

Distant Supervision is *not* appropriate for procedures in the operating rooms at Providence Health Care. Attending staff must be immediately available in the operating suite or in the hospital within 2 minutes of the OR.

Compliance

Action for non-compliance

Surgeons who fail to adhere to this guideline are reported to their Department Head, Division Head, Surgical Program Leadership and Medical Affairs for action.

References

Canadian Medical Protective Association

<https://www.cmpa-acpm.ca/en/education-events/good-practices/physician-team/delegation-and-supervision-of-trainees>

College of Physicians and Surgeons B.C.

<https://www.cpsbc.ca/files/pdf/RP-Educational-Postgraduate-Fellow-Class.pdf>

University of British Columbia

<https://med-fom-pgme.sites.olt.ubc.ca/files/2019/03/001-Postgraduate-Trainee-Supervision-Policy-PGME-Policies-and-Procedures-1.pdf>

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