

15440.26: Clinical Assignments and Student Supervision

POLICY: Students will demonstrate competency and proficiency in the performance of radiographic procedures.

RULES:

1. Students must demonstrate mastery of the theory and practice of essential clinical skills, under simulated conditions, to one of the program instructors prior to assuming actual clinical responsibilities.

CLINICAL OBLIGATIONS

The Radiography Program is a five-semester, full-time program beginning in April and September of each year. Classes are held at the main medical center campus and the clinical education component of the program is conducted in various hospitals and other medical facilities affiliated with the Hendrick Health System. Collectively the clinical affiliates provide a sufficient number and variety of radiographic procedures to offer students a well-balanced, supervised clinical experience. Hours for clinical rotations are generally from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm (varies). During the fourth semester of the program, students will rotate 88 hours other than 8:00 am to 2:00 pm. The entire semester clinical schedule will be posted prior to the beginning of each semester. Sites are located up to 90 miles from the main campus. Transportation to and from these sites is the student's responsibility. Students rotate into other modalities such as CT, MRI, and Radiation Therapy and Nuclear Medicine.

Agreements have been made with the following clinical education centers and locations (links below include directions):

- Hendrick Medical Center Abilene
- Hendrick Medical Center South Abilene
- Hendrick Medical Center Brownwood
- Hendrick Medical Plaza Abilene
- Eastland Memorial Hospital Eastland
- Comanche County Hospital Comanche
- Cogdell Memorial Hospital Snyder
- Heart of Texas Healthcare Brady
- Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Sweetwater
- Shannon Medical Center San Angelo
- Shannon Clinic San Angelo
- Texas Midwest Surgery Center Abilene
- Abilene Sports Medicine & Orthopedics Abilene
- Abilene Family Medical Associates
- Other clinical sites may be used as necessary

2. Students must have adequate and proper supervision during clinical assignments. A one to one (1:1) ratio of student to supervisor must be maintained at all times.

- a. Students must have **direct supervision** when performing a procedure until

completion of the required number of proficiency examinations has been documented.

1. **Direct supervision** – JRCERT defines direct supervision as student supervision by a qualified radiography who:
 - a. reviews the procedure in relation to the student's achievement.
 - b. evaluates the condition of the patient in relation to the student's knowledge.
 - c. is **physically present** during the conduct of the procedure.
 - d. reviews and approves the procedure and/or image before sending to PACs
 - e. Students may perform a procedure with **indirect supervision** after completing the required number of proficiency examinations.
2. **Indirect supervision** – JRCERT defines indirect supervision as that supervision provided by a qualified radiographer **immediately available** to assist students regardless of the level of student achievement. "Immediately available: is interpreted as the physical presence of a qualified radiographer **adjacent to the room** or location where a radiographic procedure is being performed. This availability applies to all areas where ionizing radiation equipment is being performed. The technologist must be immediately available and cannot be with another patient. The qualified radiographer must:
 - a. review the procedure in relation to the student's achievement.
 - b. evaluate the condition of the patient in relation to the student's knowledge.
 - c. is immediately available during the conduct of the procedure
 - d. reviews and approves the procedure and/or image before sending to PACs.
3. All **repeat** radiographic examinations must be performed under **direct supervision** regardless of the student's level of competency/proficiency.
4. All **portable exams** require the same supervision as those performed in the department.
5. **Regardless of a student's level of proficiency, a licensed technologist must:**
 - a. Check the physician's orders
 - b. Check the patient's condition in relation to the student's knowledge

- c. Check the images before transmission to the PACs system
 - d. Sign or counter sign the patient's chart prior to dismissing the patient
6. Students will not assume patient care responsibilities in lieu of regular employees, however, students will demonstrate their proficiency in carrying out appropriate assignments.
 7. Students will not hold patients or imaging receptors during any radiographic procedures.
 8. Students will not be allowed to exceed 40 educational hours per week.
 9. Exam theft is prohibited. Students may request to perform a needed exam outside their assigned area but can only do so with the permission of the student assigned to that area and both supervising technologists. The student assigned to that area is under no obligation to yield an exam to another student.
 10. A gray box will highlight the last proficiency for each exam. To clear the gray box the student must review the exam at an 80% level with a member of the school staff. Students should ensure they complete this review for all proficiencies completed by the end of each semester. Study guides are available on Syncplicity under Radiographic Anatomy.