

UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE
COLLEGE OF MEDICINE

Clerkship Student Health Policy

Approved by: Committee on Undergraduate Medical Education (CUME)

Approval date: September 28, 2012

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POLICY STATEMENT:

Should a student become ill of such severity to require absence of two or more days necessitating medical or psychological care while on a clerkship, it should be reported to the clerkship director. The student should not be seen or evaluated as a patient by a practitioner who may later be in a position to evaluate the student for a grade in a clerkship.

If the student's health issue will significantly disrupt their progress in the clerkship, the situation, but not the nature of the illness, should be reported to the course director (Memphis clerkship director) and subsequently to the Assistant Dean for Clinical Education and the Associate Dean of Medical Education. In case of a prolonged illness or disability, the student may be extended a Leave of Absence or be allowed to use option blocks for recovery during the clinical clerkships. Should a student develop a chronic illness or lingering disability, the issue must be verified by the student's physician and the student must declare the disability. The Clinical Sciences Subcommittee will then tailor a clerkship curriculum to the student's particular needs while ensuring that a comparable educational experience is maintained.

On the Chattanooga and Knoxville campuses the clerkship director should also notify the Education Director/Coordinator who will notify the Associate Dean of Education who will in turn notify the Dean for that campus as well as the Associate Dean of Students

Every effort will be made to insure confidentiality regarding in compliance with HIPAA and FERPA. All campuses offer a Student Health office in which the medical, nursing, and administrative staff is independent of faculty and college administration. The personnel are never in a position to evaluate the students that visit the University Health Services as patients. Should a student need specialty care and choose one of the faculty physicians for their healthcare, the faculty member will neither be asked nor allowed to evaluate that student. Faculty members who have seen students as patients are asked to recuse themselves should that student come before any academic committee.