



POLICY: Peer Physical Examination Policy

Students will participate in regular hands-on practice of the physical examination with their classmates. Mastery of the examination of the well, sick, and injured patient is a cornerstone of the practice of medicine and critical to the successful completion of the PA Program. Student and practitioner skills and competence will be evaluated by how well they can accomplish an adequate physical examination and how accurately they can elicit a correct finding or diagnosis.

During classroom time students will be shown correct techniques as well as clinical pearls for completing the physical examination. Some practice time will be incorporated into the class time, but it is essential that students continue to practice these skills outside of lab time and throughout the remainder of the didactic year. Upon entering the clinical phase of training, students will be expected to have mastery of the basic physical examination, and a good working knowledge of specialty exams.

Dress during clinical laboratory experiences:

All students should wear Bryant University PA Program issued scrubs, white coats, and name tags while acting as the provider. Students acting as patients should wear sports shorts and easily removed shoes without socks. Female should wear a modest sports bra. Patients should be provided gowns or drapes as appropriate.

Appropriate disrobing:

Students should perform all aspects of the physical examination as if their peer were an actual patient. Exams should not be performed over clothing. No part of the examination should be simulated, abbreviated, or done without purpose.

Sensitive physical examinations:

No examination of the breasts, genitals, or anorectal region are permitted between peers. Human patient models will be utilized for training in these aspects of the physical examination.

Chaperones:

Students may request a peer or faculty member act as a chaperone during any aspect of the examination.

Competency:

Students will be evaluated during several formative written and practical examinations during the physical examinations course, by a summative examination at the completion of didactic training, and frequently throughout the clinical correlations course, including actual performance at the RIFC.

Discrepancy:

Clinical providers have adapted their PE skills to their particular practice and experience. Variations in technique are common. If there is conflict between professors or instructors regarding technique or if there are any questions regarding proper performance of an exam, the textbook of record should be considered the definitive answer.

Professional behavior:

The physical examination involves close contact with patients, is frequently uncomfortable, and is often performed on patients during their most vulnerable times. Absolute professionalism is expected at all times in the program, but extra effort should be made during lab experiences. If at any time a student feels uncomfortable with an examination, a peer, or a faculty member, they should remove themselves from the situation and report to the Director of Didactic Education.

Incidental findings:

It is common for faculty and students acting as providers during physical examination to find normal variations in anatomy and physiology, but also to elicit abnormal incidental findings.

- In the event of a concerning or abnormal finding on a student:
 - The student has the absolute right to confidentiality. The student should be notified of the finding. It is up to the student to bring these findings to the faculty or to their health care provider.
 - If the student has concerns they should approach the Director of Didactic Education. The DDE may confirm the finding and direct the student to the appropriate medical resource. The DDE will complete the **Incidental Finding Form**.
- Abnormal findings should never be discussed with anyone other than those directly involved. Failure to adhere to this policy, even if unintentional, can lead to disciplinary measures by the program or inability to participate in supervised clinical practice experiences. Although this would not be considered a HIPAA Violation, disclosure of health related information could result in legal action being pursued against a student.

Confidentiality:

All discussions regarding student health, all physical examination findings, or any laboratory results are considered confidential medical information. Care provided in the laboratory or classroom should be given the same degree of confidentiality provided to actual patients.

Faculty as medical providers:

The PA Program faculty, including instructional faculty, are prohibited from being involved in any aspect of student healthcare, except in an emergency.

- Students should refrain from requesting or obtaining care or health advice from faculty, lecturers, or preceptors involved in the PA Program.
- Receiving care from faculty can create a possible ethical dilemma and violates ARC-PA Standards.
- Faculty may provide immediate assistance in the case of a medical emergency.

Students have health insurance, student health services, as well as access to local primary, urgent, and emergent care for all of their health needs.

Standard A3.09 Principal faculty, the program director, and the medical director must not participate as health care providers for students in the program, except in an emergency situation.

ANNOTATION:

Review: 12/13/17

Medical Director

Director of Clinical Education

Forwarded for Approval: 12/14/17

Associate Program Director

Approved: 12/14/17

Program Director



FORM: Participation of Students as Human Subjects

Statement: Functional anatomy and physical diagnosis are best learned through the study of living subjects.

The Bryant University PA Program requires the participation of students as living subjects, as well as examiners, in an interchangeable fashion, during selected courses of the didactic phase of the program. Students are expected to willingly participate in all aspects of physical examination training in a professional and cooperative manner. At various times, students will be asked to wear clothing that will easily allow physical examinations by another students and observation by participating faculty. Females will be asked to wear a modest sports bra and shorts, males will be asked to wear shorts.

PA education requires the application of clinical skills and procedures. During the course of education students will act as both a provider performing such skills and procedures on classmates, and as a patient recipient of these same procedures. In order to make this an equitable process, those students wishing to participate in performing sills must agree to be the recipient of those same skills.

The following rules apply to skills and procedures:

1. All procedures are voluntary. Volunteering involves consenting to the inherent risks involved in both performing and receiving such procedures.
2. If you perform a procedure on a classmate, you consent to have that classmate perform the same procedure on you.
3. In the case of a needle stick injury, you agree to have you blood drawn and tested for communicable diseases, including, but not limited to, HIV and Hepatitis.
4. In the case of a concerning exposure, you will be offered counseling and Post Exposure Prophylaxis (PEP) if indicated.
5. You agree that all procedures will be performed in the presence of a faculty member and that you will follow all verbal, posted, and implied instructions.
6. You will report any injury immediately, including needle stick or exposure to bodily fluids, to the faculty member present.
7. You will understand the risk(s) of each procedure you perform and receive, and are willing to accept the risk associated with each procedure. If you are not aware of the risks, or are unwilling to accept these risks, you agree not to perform or receive any procedure until all risks are fully explained and you are fully willing to accept such risks.
8. You are aware that other unforeseeable complications may occur. You do not expect faculty to anticipate or explain all possible risks or complications that could occur.
9. You have the right to consent or refuse any procedure at any time.

I agree that I have had the opportunity to discuss this document and have any questions answered. I, on behalf of myself, heirs, next of kin, spouse, and legal representatives do hereby absolutely, fully, and forever, release, relieve, waive, relinquish, and discharge Bryant University, The PA Program, any faculty member, fellow student, administrator, or any of their respective directors, officers, employees, volunteers, agents, contractors, and representatives, of and from any and all actions or causes of action, actual or alleged claims, of any kind or undiscovered, accrued or un-accrued, suspected or unsuspected, which any Releasing Party may now have, claim to have, or which may at any time hereafter accrue, arising out of, in connection with, in consequence of, in any way involving, or related to the procedures performed. I also agree that I, my heirs, next of kin, spouse, and legal representatives will not make a claim against, sue, or assign blame in any manner as a result of performed procedures.

By my signature:

1. I am stating that I understand all of the information provided on this form.
2. That I consent to participate in all of the physical examinations and act as a willing patient allowing classmates and faculty to perform appropriate physical examinations on me.
3. That my participation in procedures is voluntary, but that not agreeing to participate as a patient prevents me from performing procedures on fellow classmates, thus limiting my educational process and placing me at a distinct disadvantage upon starting clinical rotations.

Student Printed Name

Student Signature

Date

Standard

ANNOTATION:

Review: 12/13/17

Medical Director

Director of Clinical Education

- Signed form added to student record
- Students not providing general consent counseled

Forwarded for Approval: 12/14/17

Associate Program Director

Approved: 12/14/17

Program Director



FORM: Incidental Medical Finding

Click or tap to enter a date.

To be completed by the Director of Didactic Education

During the routine performance of a Peer-to-Peer physical examination the following suspicious or concerning abnormal finding was discovered:

Click or tap here to enter text.

- Student has been notified of the condition
- Confidentiality has been discussed with all faculty and students involved in the examination or aware of the findings
- Results were confirmed by a faculty member
- Student was given an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the impact of any impact these findings may have of participation in the program

Action by Director of Didactic Education:

Choose an item.

Student Name: Click or tap here to enter text.

Click or tap to enter a date.

Student Signature: _____

Director of Didactic Education: Click or tap here to enter text.

Signature: _____

Click or tap to enter a date.