PA students may not be given responsibility for patient care that exceeds their capabilities as a student or that violates other legal restrictions. Students may not take the responsibility or place of qualified staff. Involvement in patient care is permitted only when authorized by the preceptor or faculty member. Assigned patient care activities should not exceed the student’s stage of learning or clinical knowledge. Under no circumstances should assigned patient care related activities exceed those which a graduate physician assistant would otherwise be directed to perform. While the program will consider the impact of personal and cultural values, ethics and religious beliefs on students requirements to participate, in no instance will patient care or the mission of the institution be compromised.

**Application.**
All students enrolled in the Master of Physician Assistant Studies program.

**Definitions.**
1. **Patient care related activities.** “Patient care related activities” means permitted activities to include direct patient care and access to patient care related information under the supervision and direction of a qualified preceptor or faculty member. Under no circumstances is the student permitted to write patient care orders independently.

**Procedures and Responsibilities.**
1. Students are required to provide evidence indicating they do not have conditions that would endanger the health and well-being of patients. PA Students are also expected to take reasonable steps to protect themselves and the safety, confidentiality, and well-being of patients with whom they come into contact with while conducting educational activities in clinical settings
   **Responsible Party:** Students.

2. Students must be able to demonstrate that their abilities enable them to meet the health and technical standards policy.
   **Responsible Party:** Students.

3. Student preceptors may not permit PA students to perform any medical service or function without appropriate supervision. Supervision in the clinical setting is defined as the preceptor being physically present or immediately available to provide guidance.
4. After demonstrating proficiency, students may be permitted to undertake additional defined activities while under the appropriate supervision and direction of their assigned preceptor.  
   Responsible Party: Faculty.

5. PA students are required to complete HIPAA training prior to any patient contact activities. Students may not release confidential patient information to anyone outside of their clinical preceptor or a qualified faculty member.  
   Responsible Party: Students.

6. Students must take all reasonable steps to disclose their status a “physician assistant student” while performing patient care related activities. Students must wear their UNT Health Science Center identification badge (card) at all times while on clinical practica and while involved in delivering patient care. Students are required to wear the “short” white lab coat with the UNT Health Science Center PA Studies patch firmly attached to the breast pocket during all patient care interactions. It falls upon the student to inform patients or their legal guardians of distinctions between a physician assistant student, a medical student, a licensed physician assistant, and an attending physician, if asked to do so.  
   Responsible Party: Students.

7. In accordance with applicable law, treatment and care will be provided to persons in need without regard to disability, race, creed, color, age, gender, religion or national origin.  
   Responsible Party: Students/Faculty.

8. Under some circumstances concerning environmental and chemical exposures, the student may be asked to make an informed decision concerning continued participation in the curriculum.  
   Responsible Party: Students.
References and Cross-references.
15.404 SHP – Physician Assistant Student Employment
15.409 SHP – Physician Assistant Student Service Work
15.410 SHP – Physician Assistant Health and Technical Standards

Approved:  August 1997
Effective:  August 1997
Revised:    