

PATIENT SAFETY ON CLINICAL ATTACHMENTS

This policy relates to the safety of patients while they are in contact with medical students. This is generic patient safety advice and may be supplemented with local COVID advice.

Infection Prevention and Control

1. Prior to the first clinical attachment students should refresh their infection prevention and control knowledge from lectures notes, clinical skills practical sessions and portfolio tasks.

Hand Hygiene

2. Students must know how to decontaminate hands properly and remember the '5 moments of hand hygiene' when in the clinical area:
 - a. Before touching a patient.
 - b. Before clean/aseptic procedures.
 - c. After body fluid exposure/risk.
 - d. After touching a patient.
 - e. After touching patient surroundings.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

3. In most clinical situations that require wear PPE, students will receive specific guidance from supervising staff as to what is required e.g. gloves, apron, face mask, eye protection. Students should be aware of information notices advising of a patient's infection status; these notices are normally on the door of a single room. Students who are unsure of what PPE is required must speak to a member of staff as it may be that the patient is being cared for in source/protective isolation.

Examination of a Patient

4. **Consent.** Students should ensure that they have the consent of the patient prior to undertaking any physical examination. If in doubt consult a tutor.
5. **Patient positioning.** If a patient is unable to move independently into the position required then ask a tutor or a member of nursing staff to assist. Patients should not be moved by a single student.
6. **Patient surroundings.** If students move equipment to enable an examination then it should be returned back to its original position; bed is back to the lowest level, the tray table and call bell/buzzer back within the reach of the patient.

Raising Concerns

7. All members of the healthcare team have a duty to act when they believe patients' safety is at risk, or that patients' care or dignity are being compromised. Students who have any concerns about patient care, must speak to their session tutor or senior member of staff in the placement area (e.g. nurse in charge of department) for immediate action. Students who feel unable to raise concerns with their session tutor, GCM or placement staff should contact a member of Medical School staff as soon as possible (e.g. Clinical Programme Lead, through medclinical@st-andrews.ac.uk / 01334 461890). Further guidance regarding raising and acting on concerns about patient safety is available on the GMC website <https://www.gmc-uk.org/concerns> and in the School Raising Concerns Policy.

University of St Andrews - School of Medicine Handbook

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Date	Revision Description	Major Changes
25/07/2017	Published version	
08/08/18		Raising concerns flowchart added