Policy for Delegation of Responsibility in Clinical Assignments
University of Texas Medical Branch School of Medicine

UTMB School of Medicine students are authorized to participate in a wide range of clinical activities at the direction of their supervising physician. Authorized activities include, but are not limited to:

1. Observation of patient care activities in inpatient, outpatient, emergency room and/or operating room locations.
2. Participation in provision of direct patient care, including medical interviewing, physical examination, and patient education activities.
3. Interactions and discussions with patients regarding diagnoses and plans of management.
4. Assisting a physician in the performance of procedures, based on the skill, experience, and comfort level of the student and at the discretion of the supervising physician.
5. Recording notes in paper or electronic medical records.
6. Other activities under the direction, and at the discretion of the supervising physician.

Ultimate responsibility for the patients with whom UTMB School of Medicine students interact remains with the supervising physician. The supervising physician must be readily accessible to the student whenever the student interacts with patients; sufficient support in the form of personnel and equipment must be available to the student in case of a medical emergency. Where clinically and educationally appropriate, physicians who are supervising medical students may delegate responsibility for some elements of teaching and supervision to housestaff or non-physician care providers, e.g. allied health professionals, nurses, etc. within the institution. It will be the responsibility of each supervising physician to determine which learning experiences are appropriately delegated in this manner and to ensure that personnel providing such supervision are working within their scope of practice.