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Perioperative
Services
Policy Area Health
Enterprise: OR &
Procedural Areas
Applicability UCI Health -
Orange

Observers in the Procedural Setting

I. POLICY

- A. Any person not directly involved in the care of the patient during the surgical procedure must obtain the consent of the patient and of the Perioperative Services Director/Manager (or designee) to observe during a procedure.

II. GUIDELINES

- A. The attending surgeon/sponsoring surgeon is responsible for informing the patient that an observer will be in the room and obtaining consent for the observation.
- B. All observers must wear name tags provided by UCI Health or, for vendor representatives, **Vendormate**.
 - 1. The name of any observer will be documented as "Observer" in the appropriate section of the OR/Procedural Record.
- C. Observers are not allowed to scrub in for surgical cases.
- D. Any observer present in the OR/Procedural area is expected to be in good physical health and exhibit no signs or symptoms of illness (e.g. coughing, sneezing, runny nose, rash). Any observer noted to have symptoms of illness will be asked to leave the OR.
- E. Authorized observers may be asked to leave the procedure if numbers of personnel and observers in the room compromises patient safety. The decision will be made collaboratively between the circulating RN, attending surgeon, and anesthesiologist.
- F. Observers (excluding medical photographers) are not permitted to videotape or take photographs in the Operating Room/Procedural area.

Categories of Observers:

- A. Medical Observer should be one of following:
 - 1. A visiting attending physician or fellow (medical, osteopathic, dental, podiatric) appropriately licensed in their state or country;
 - 2. A visiting resident currently enrolled in an approved U.S. Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) medical residency training program (medical, osteopathic, dental, podiatric) or equivalent foreign residency training program;
 - 3. A visiting allied health provider appropriately licensed or certified by their respective governing authority;
 - 4. A participant in an allied health professional training program.
- B. Non-medical observers would include:
 - 1. A student in a health-care related academic program offered by the University of California – Irvine or its affiliated institution (e.g., BioSci 199, Biomedical Engineering);
 - 2. An individual who has communicated an interest in pursuing a health care career, who is chaperoned and sponsored by a full time faculty member;
 - 3. An individual in a related medical field (e.g., veterinarian) interested in observing advanced surgical techniques while working with a full time faculty member;
 - 4. A medical reporter or photographer
- C. Vendor Representatives
- D. UCI Health Enterprise staff members:
 - 1. A representative of Risk Management, Epidemiology and Infection Prevention, or Performance Improvement departments.
 - 2. UCI Health staff members who have been required/encouraged to observe certain operative/invasive procedures in order to increase their understanding of the patient's condition or need for special treatments.
- E. Family members of patients, professional or otherwise, are not permitted in the OR/procedural area during surgical procedures. On the rare occasion that the attending anesthesiologist requests that a family member/patient representative accompany the patient to the OR/procedural area, the family member/patient representative may stay with the patient until anesthesia has been administered. Once the patient is asleep, the family member/patient representative will be escorted out of the OR/procedural area to the waiting room.
 - 1. EXCEPTIONS:
 - a. One (1) family member/friend of laboring patients are allowed in the Delivery Room.
 - b. One (1) family member/significant other is allowed in the Operating Room during a Cesarean Section.

Observer Requirements:

- A. Letter of Support from Sponsoring Physician
 - 1. Include in the letter: ownership/responsibility of the observer and dates of the observation.
 - 2. Name(s) of supervising Attending physician.
- B. Proof of Health Insurance.
- C. Must be at least 16 years of age;
- D. Must have documentation of PPD within the last 12 months or a negative chest x-ray within the last year if has had a positive PPD in the past;
- E. Must have documentation of measles, mumps, rubella (MMR), varicella, and Hepatitis B vaccination or positive titers, and Tdap vaccination if observer is exposed to infants or children;
 - 1. Current influenza vaccine during flu season as mandated by UCIMC EIP Department.
 - 2. Visitors to follow appropriate PPE for Isolation Precautions per hospital policy.
- F. Tdap (within 10 years)
- G. Current Flu Vaccination (within last 12 months) AND updated COVID Vaccine (within last 12 months)
 - 1. Observers that do not have updated Flu AND COVID vaccines will be required to mask at all times while on the premises.
- H. HIPAA Training (signed attestation)
- I. Statement of Clinical Observer (signed)
- J. **Students:** Copy of UCI (or University) Identification Badge or Student ID badge from home school.
- K. **Medical Professionals:** Copy of Current Medical License (or professional license if not a MD/DO)
- L. Must complete an orientation to the OR/procedural area which at a minimum includes fire safety for medical/non-medical observers and vendor representatives, procedural attire and basics of aseptic technique.

Prior to being permitted to observe in the procedural setting:

- A. Visiting Attending physicians/fellows must complete the "Clinical Observer" appointment process.
 - 1. Arrangements for observation of a surgical procedure should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled procedure and should include duration of observation (eg, less than two weeks, greater than two weeks);
 - 2. Must comply with all Observer requirements.
- B. Visiting residents without an affiliation with our Residency program will be held to the

standards and limitations of all observers.

1. Arrangements for observation of a surgical procedure should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled procedure and should include duration of observation;
 2. Must comply with all Observer requirements.
- C. Visiting allied health providers must be licensed or certified by their respective governing authority.
1. Allied health students should be participants in a professional training program affiliated with UC Irvine Medical Center.
 2. Arrangements for observation of a surgical procedure should be made at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled procedure by the sponsoring UCI physician;
 3. Must comply with all Observer requirements;
 4. The sponsoring UCI physician will provide evidence of compliance with program requirements to the Operating Room/Procedural area Manager (or Designee) at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled procedure.
- D. Non-medical observers must be sponsored by a full time faculty member willing to chaperone the observer in the OR/Procedural area.
1. Students in health-care related academic programs offered by the university are responsible for contacting the coordinator of the specialty service they are interested in observing to determine which cases to observe. The coordinator requests permission from the faculty attending or CRNA staff for the student to observe that specific case.
 2. Full-time faculty physicians sponsoring individuals interesting in pursuing a health care career must contact the Executive Specialist to the Chair of the Department of Surgery with the name of the individual and the date of the observation. An attestation/letter of support of the individual's character and the reason for the observation must be submitted.
 - a. Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) observers can receive a letter of support from any CRNA staff member.
 3. Must comply with all Observer requirements;
 4. Non-medical observers are not allowed to "scrub in" or assist during surgery/ procedures.
- E. Vendors Representatives
1. All vendor representatives must wear their Vendor-Mate badge and company identification at all times.
 2. Vendor representatives are required to sign in at the Front Desk prior to entering the OR
 3. Vendor representatives may be present in the OR/Procedural areas for the purpose of training and providing technical assistance to the surgical team. Under no circumstances will vendor representative be permitted to scrub in for the case.

4. Vendor representatives with specialized training may perform remote calibration to adjust devices to the surgeon's specification (e.g. pacemaker).
5. Vendor-Mate (see Vendor Guide)
 - a. If the Vendor-mate website is down, the Vendor administrator will be contacted to verify the appropriate credentials.
 - b. If the Vendor-Mate kiosk(s) is down, the vendor can log onto the website and show the appropriate personnel that they are 100% compliant using their mobile app..
 - c. If the vendor is not 100% compliant with Vendor-Mate, they will not be allowed into the operating room.
 - d. UC Irvine Douglas Hospital staff members may observe in the OR/ Procedural area after contacting the Perioperative Services/Procedural Manager (or Designee) and discussing the reason for the observation, including the date, surgeon, and procedure.
6. For all medical and non-medical observers, except attending physicians and fellows, the Assistant to the Chair, Department of Surgery will:
 - a. Ensure that appropriate paperwork for observer is complete;
 - b. Notify observer of need to obtain UCI name badge from Human Resources prior to observation;
 - c. Arrange for Educator/designee to provide orientation for the observer;
 - d. Maintain record of completed requirements and orientation.
 - e. Medical Photographers and Reporters must follow guidelines in "Media Request" section below.

Media Requests

- A. All external media requests to interview, observe, video tape or photograph in the Operating Room/Procedural area must first be approved and supervised by the UC Irvine Health Affairs Media Relations Office.
 1. The request by reporters to observe or photograph a surgical procedure will be made in writing and shall outline the purpose of the story and how observing, videotaping or photographing the surgical procedure will be integral to the article.
 2. Requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis and approved, at minimum, by the patient, surgeon, anesthesiologist, Perioperative Director/Manager (or designee), Risk Manager and Director of UCI Medical Center.
 3. The physician AND patient must agree to allow the reporter in the operating room. If either the physician OR the patient does not want the reporter observing a procedure, for any reason, the reporter's request will be denied.
 4. A Photography and Publication Consent form (UCIMC Form 82175) will be signed by the patient prior to the procedure and/or interview with the patient.
 5. A representative of the Marketing and Public Relations Department will contact the

patient prior to the interview and procedure to provide details about the reporter, media outlet, and reason for the interview.

6. The surgical team will ensure the reporter is wearing a name tag and appropriate attire/personal protective equipment prior to entering the operating room.
 7. The surgical team will direct the reporter to a location in the operating room that is out of the way and does not interfere with the sterile field or procedure.
 8. If the reporter is asked by any member of the surgical team to leave the room during the procedure, for any reason, the reporter must leave. If the reporter refuses, security will be called and all future requests to observe procedures will be denied.
- B. Internal Photography/Video requests will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, depending on the reason for the photography and complexity of the procedure. These requests must also be approved, at minimum, by the patient, surgeon, anesthesiologist, Perioperative Director/ Manager (or designee), Risk Manager and Medical Director of UCI Medical Center.
1. The patient will sign a Photography and Publication Consent form (UCIMC Form 82175) in advance of the procedure.
 2. In certain cases, such as when a breakthrough surgical technique is performed, the Medical Center may hire a professional video team to take B-roll of the procedure. The B-roll would then be reviewed and edited prior to distribution to news media.
 3. If a patient consents to photography, but wishes to remain anonymous, the photographer will not photograph the patient's face, or any other distinguishing features such as tattoos.

III. REFERENCES

- Erin Kyle, DNP, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, ed. 2024. AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice - 2024th Ed. Denver, CO, USA. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN).

IV. RELATED POLICIES/GUIDELINES

- Traffic Control in the OR
- Medical Students Participating in Procedural Areas
- Photography, Filming and Audio Recording
- Vendor Guide
- Observers and Vendors in Clinical Areas
- Standard Precautions and Isolation/Transmission Precautions

Attachments

 [Immunization Requirements.pdf](#)

Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Governing Body	Governing Body [AR]	12/2024
Med Exec Committee	Medical Executive Committee [AR]	12/2024
Policy & Communications Committee	Policy & Communications Cte [MR]	12/2024
Nurse Executive Council	Nurse Executive Council [JW]	11/2024
Nursing Practice Council	Nursing Practice Council [EA]	08/2024
OR Committeee	OR Committee [MV]	07/2024

Applicability

UCI Health - Orange

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