**CHLA Policy ADM-67.0 Observation of Patient Care – FAQ**

***This policy applies to those individuals who wish to observe Physicians or Dentists performing clinical care.***

**Who is eligible for an observership?**

Physicians, Dentists, Physician Assistants, and Medical, Graduate, College and High School Students (age 16 and above) with a CHLA Medical Staff sponsor or as part of an Approved CHLA Program may observe at CHLA.

**How are observers brought on-board?**

Anyone wishing to do an observership at CHLA must have a CHLA Medical Staff sponsor. Neither Medical Staff Services (MSS) nor the Medical Education Office (MEO) will match students to Medical Staff members.

Clearance paperwork is to be completed either by the sponsoring Medical Staff member or an appointed staff member within the Division/Department. MSS and MEO will not complete the required observer paperwork.

Physicians, dentists, and physician assistants are cleared through Medical Staff Services. This includes physicians still in training (i.e. Residents and Fellows).

Students (medical, graduate, college, and high school) are cleared through the Medical Education Office.

The completed and signed paperwork should be received by MSS or MEO at least 2 weeks prior to the planned observership date.

**What about individuals who want to observe other healthcare professions?**

Individuals who want to observe healthcare professions covered by our Clinical Services department are covered under CHLA Policy CC-023.0 Student Placement, Observation, and Job Shadowing/Tours of Patients and are not cleared through MSS or MEO.

**What about individuals seeking to do research?**

Individuals who wish to do research not as an employee of the hospital are not covered by the observer policy. Physicians or scientists wishing to bring on a research student or other non-employee aid (e.g. research volunteer) should contact [tecpad@chla.usc.edu](mailto:tecpad@chla.usc.edu).

**Are Keck Medical Students covered by this policy?**

Keck Medical Students are not covered by this policy. All KSOM medical students, regardless of their year or reason for visiting CHLA are cleared through MEO; this includes those coming to CHLA to perform research.

**What can they do while they are here and what access do they have?**

Observers are just that – they will only watch and are not permitted any direct patient contact. They are also not guaranteed to observe patient care as patients and families may decline to allow them to observe. An observer may have a CHLA badge for only their approved dates and will have no other access to the hospital or any hospital systems (no access to Windows, Kids, etc). They must relinquish their badge on their last scheduled day.

**Is there a different process for international observers?**

All international observers must be processed through the Global Health Office ([globalhealth@chla.usc.edu](mailto:globalhealth@chla.usc.edu)) prior to submission of application materials to MSS or MEO. Once cleared by Global Health, the procedure is the same.

**How long can an observer stay at CHLA?**

Observerships are limited to a maximum of 30 days with the exception of international observers who may observe for a maximum of 90 days. Exceptions can be granted on a case-by-case basis by Medical Staff Services or the Medical Education Office.