



LCME Newsletter #11 – November 2020

Subcommittee Updates

During October, the following elements have gone through an initial review by subcommittees:

Organizational & Leadership Subcommittee:

Academic & Learning Environments:

Faculty & Resources Subcommittee: 5.7 Security, Student Safety, and Disaster Preparedness, 5.8 Library Resources—The SOM has worked with TMC security and affiliates to ensure security measures are in place and communicated to students.

Curricular Objectives & Content Subcommittee: 7.7 Medical Ethics, 7.8 Communication Skills

Curriculum Management & Assessment Subcommittee: 9.6 Setting Standards of Achievement, 9.9 Student Advancement & Appeal Process

Medical Student Experience Subcommittee: 12.4 Student Access to Health Care Services, 12.5 Non-Involvement of Providers of Student Health Services in Student Assessment/Location of Student Health Records

Institutional Student Analysis Subcommittee: School leaders have developed action items in response to the ISA report and will be working on implementing changes over the upcoming months.

Elements of the Month

- Element 12.3 — Personal Counseling/Well-Being Programs
- Element 12.4 — Student Access to Health Care Services
- Element 12.8 — Student Exposure Policies/Procedures



Element 12.3 — Personal Counseling/Well-Being Programs

Element 12.3 states that a medical school has in place an effective system of personal counseling for its medical students that includes programs to promote their well-being and to facilitate their adjustment to the physical and emotional demands of medical education.

Mental health services and personal counseling are provided to medical students through the College's Office of Student Services and personal counseling through the Office of Student Affairs.

All Baylor students have access to on-site and off-site mental health counseling services. These include Baylor-sponsored student assistance programs and may be obtained through the student's individual health insurance plan provider.

LCME Newsletter #11 – November 2020

...Continuation of Element 12.3 — Personal Counseling/Well-Being Programs

How are students made aware of these services?

Students are made aware of these services during medical school orientation, and throughout the four years of school via emails, and the weekly Student Newsletters and online platforms (Blackboard, Student Handbook and websites).

Are these services free?

Baylor's Student and House Staff Mental Health Service provides confidential, free mental health services for students and couples (students with partners/ significant others). Up to 12 sessions of individual psychotherapy, couple's therapy, and psychopharmacological treatment are provided free of charge; however, students are responsible for prescription purchases through their insurance. These services are available on-site, though separated from the clinical sites at which students do their clinical rotations, virtually and after-hours for student convenience.

What programs are designed to support students' well-being and facilitate students' ongoing adjustment to the physical and emotional demands of medical school?

At BCM, Wellness is defined by the Seven Dimensions of Wellness: Emotional/Mental Health, Physical, Financial, Social, Intellectual, Environmental and Spiritual. The Office of Student Affairs works directly with the Office of Student Services to promote medical student wellness and develop medical student-centered wellness programming

At BCM we have six Learning Communities Program's (known as Squads), each with its own faculty LC Director and student leadership. The LC program fosters students' social, intellectual, and professional development.

The Office of Student Affairs works directly with the Office of Student Services to develop synergistic wellness programming for BCM Students.

The Office of Student Services (OSS) offers four areas of student support:

1. Academic Excellence
2. Student Wellness
3. Administrative Support
4. Student Engagement

Programming includes workshop series on study skills and time management, BCM LIFE (student wellness program), the Wellness Intervention Team (WIT), Student Health Services, and many other endeavors.

Baylor College of Medicine students additionally have many options to participate in individualized or group wellness programs within the Texas Medical Center and throughout the city of Houston. The Office of Student Services and the Office of Student Affairs works with students and faculty to identify needs and either find existing resources to meet these needs or develop new initiatives across seven dimensions of wellness.

For additional information on Student and House Staff Mental Health Services please visit the [BCM website](#).

LCME Newsletter #11 – November 2020



Element 12.4 — Student Access to Healthcare Services

Element 12.4 states that a medical school provides its medical students with timely access to needed diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic health services at sites in reasonable proximity to the locations of their required educational experiences and has policies and procedures in place that permit students to be excused from these experiences to seek needed care.

All students enrolled in the BCM School of Medicine shall receive timely access to diagnostic, preventive, and therapeutic Health Care Services. Students may be excused from educational and clinical experiences for the purposes of seeking and receiving necessary Health Care Services. A student's decision to seek health care during a foundational or clinical course should have no impact on his or her performance evaluation or grade for the course, provided the student remains able to satisfy attendance requirements as specified in the School of Medicine's Attendance and Participation Policy.

What is the current system for providing medical students with access to health services?

Baylor maintains the Student Health Insurance Plan. Baylor requires that all individuals enrolled in any Baylor academic program elect coverage through Student Health Insurance Plan or choose to waive coverage if they have an individual policy that meets the Baylor waiver criteria.

Site options available to students are as follow:

Baylor Family Medicine– TMC (6620 Main St.), Upper Kirby (3701 Kirby Drive) and the River Oaks (3743 Westheimer Road) locations for any health issues.

Does BCM have a Student Health Center onsite?

Although BCM does not have a student health center, the Academic Health Plans and Health Services Coordinator provide assistance to students seeking healthcare services.

Students are eligible to receive care through the Baylor Student and House Staff Mental Health Services. Those services are staffed by Baylor College of Medicine doctoral level faculty psychologists and social workers. Services are also provided through virtual platforms.

WellConnect provides a 24/7 hotline for crisis counseling. All WellConnect calls are answered by a licensed mental health professional, and the staff are well trained in their triage process.

How are students informed about the availability and methods to access health services?

Students receive information in person and online regarding the availability and access to health care services that include during their orientation and matriculation, Student Town Halls, Open Houses, weekly student communications (Thursday News and Student Commons), as well as the School of Medicine's Blackboard Site and Student Services Website.

28.1.17—Medical Student Access to Health Care Services Policy can be viewed on the [intranet](#).

LCME Newsletter #11 – November 2020



Element 12.8 — Student Exposure Policies/ Procedures

Element 12.8 states that a medical school has policies in place that effectively address medical student exposure to infectious and environmental hazards, including the following:

- The education of medical students about methods of prevention
- The procedures for care and treatment after exposure, including a definition of financial responsibility
- The effects of infectious and environmental disease or disability on medical student learning activities

All registered medical students (including visiting students) are informed of these policies before undertaking any educational activities that would place them at risk.

BCM's School of Medicine is dedicated to educating its medical students and Visiting Students in the provision of health care of the highest quality. It abides by professional values that recognize the primacy of patient welfare and the need to reduce risks to the health of both patients and medical students within the framework of medical education activities.

What policies are in place for BCM SOM faculty, staff, and medical students to use Standard Precautions?

BCM's [Standard Precautions Policy \(26.3.06\)](#) and [Infection Control and Prevention Plan \(26.3.19\)](#) require all BCM SOM faculty, staff, and medical students to use Standard Precautions, including proper hand hygiene and appropriate personal protective equipment, during all clinical activities in order to minimize the risk of Occupational Exposures and enhance patient safety.

Per the Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Policy, the following are procedures for implementation and review:

Medical Students Education: Prevention of Occupational Exposures.

1. [Orientation Materials and Annual Learning Events](#). Medical Students are introduced to the concepts of infectious and environmental hazards, prevention, and control during medical student orientation.
2. [Policy and Procedure Awareness](#). All students must strictly adhere to the Standard Precautions and Infection Control and Prevention policies of BCM.
3. [Quick Reference Badges](#). All BCM medical students and Visiting Students receive portable badges that include contact information for the OHP in case of a needle stick or other Occupational Exposure.

Care & Treatment Post-Occupational Exposure: Student and Program Responsibilities.

1. [Report Occupational Exposure](#). Contact Course Leaders, OHP and Student Affairs. Access to assessment, counseling, and treatment will be available to medical students incurring exposure to potentially infectious bodily fluids or blood via needle sticks or other accidental contact.
2. [Students Must Maintain Active Health Insurance Coverage](#). All BCM medical students are required to maintain active health insurance coverage to fund health needs related to Occupational Exposure, and must utilize their health insurance to cover the necessary care and treatment expenses due to such Exposure as provided below.
3. [OHP-Funded Counseling and Testing](#). Costs associated with services recommended and provided by OHP pursuant to possible Occupational Exposure, including counseling and testing, are covered by

LCME Newsletter #11 – November 2020

...Continuation of Element 12.8 — Student Exposure Policies/ Procedures

4. Exposure during Away Electives. If a needle stick or exposure occurs while a BCM medical student is on an away elective immediate evaluation and treatment will be available within the guidelines and policies of that institution or facility.
5. Visiting Students. Visiting Students are required to maintain active health insurance coverage to fund all health needs related to Occupational Exposure, and must utilize their health insurance to cover the necessary care and treatment expenses due to such Exposure, including evaluation, testing, and treatment costs.

Educational Impact: Infectious or Environmental Disease or Disability.

1. Patient and Student Safety in the Learning Environment. The School of Medicine fulfills its obligation to educate future physicians while adhering to procedures that maintain the health and safety of patients and that protect the personal rights of medical students with infectious diseases or immunocompromised conditions.
2. OHP Consultations. Students with infectious or communicable illnesses or with an immune compromising condition should consult with the OHP (713-798-7880 or ohp@bcm.edu) regarding the advisability of working with patients including any limitations or other concerns as relate to his or her clinical duties and educational activities
3. Technical Standards and Accommodation. Regardless of illness or condition, students must comply with the School of Medicine's [Technical Standards Policy \(28.1.16\)](#), and BCM will attempt to provide reasonable accommodation.

28.1.15—Medical Student Exposure to Infectious and Environmental Hazards Policy can be viewed on the [intranet](#).

In our next LCME Newsletter ...

In the December newsletter we will look at elements 12.1 and 12.2. You will also be provided with our monthly subcommittee updates and any other LCME information as it pertains to our upcoming site visit. For more information please visit our LCME website at www.bcm.edu/lcme.

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Resources

BCM Self-Study Website:
www.bcm.edu/lcme

LCME: <https://lcme.org/>

Policies & Procedures: (intranet)

<https://intranet.bcm.edu/index.cfm?fuseaction=Policies.Policies>

SOM Student Handbook

<https://www.bcm.edu/education/schools/medical-school/md-program/student-handbook>

SOM Teaching Faculty Handbook: <https://www.bcm.edu/education/school-of-medicine/m-d-program/teaching-faculty-resources>

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