Policy on Providers of Care to Medical Students

I. Purpose:

1) To assure that academic evaluation/progression are independent from confidential or protected health information.
2) To ensure that individuals charged with academic evaluation/progression base their decisions on agreed upon performance measures.
3) To assure that medical students can obtain and receive private and confidential medical, psychological or psychiatric care from the Student Counseling Center or Student Health Center (Wellness 360), and that the health care providers of sensitive medical or psychological/psychiatric care to medical student have no role in evaluation/progression of medical students through the academic curriculum.

II. Policy:
The UT Health School of Medicine at San Antonio (SoM) is committed to providing an educational environment that is supportive and respectful to its faculty, staff and students. This policy is established to ensure that students are evaluated based on common agreed upon performance measures that are independent of confidential or protected health information. This is essential to ensure that student academic performance is evaluated properly and to ensure that students are not discouraged from seeking medical and/or psychological/psychiatric care that is held in the strictest standards of patient privacy and confidentiality, without concern for consequent adverse actions or repercussions.

Student and health care providers should follow these procedures to make certain that the appropriate care is sought and provided.

Health care professionals who provide medical and/or psychological/psychiatric care to medical students must:

1) Have no role in the formal academic or professionalism evaluation of medical students at the present or future time.
2) Have no role in advancement/progression/graduation of medical students at the present or future time.
3) Recuse themselves from the formal academic or professionalism evaluation of medical students and from academic or professionalism decisions of advancement/progression/graduation of medical students if a dual relationship with medical students is anticipated or is discovered and, when appropriate and without breaching confidentiality, alert the Dean in the Office of Student Affairs immediately.

Students should:

1) Seek medical care through the Wellness 360 (previously known as the Student Health Center) located on the main campus in the Nursing building, Room 1.422. This medical care is usually provided by Registered Nurses or Advanced Nurse Practitioners under the supervision of the center’s Medical Director. The health care providers at Wellness 360 may refer medical students to other academic or community health care providers for further/follow-up care.

2) Seek psychological/psychiatric care through the Student Counseling Center located on the main campus, dental building Room 3.100R.1. A multidisciplinary staff, who is not involved in academic or professionalism evaluations and/or decisions of advancement/progression through the curriculum, provides evaluation and treatment including counseling, psychotherapy, and medication management when necessary to medical students with mental health, situational, social or academic concerns. The health care providers in the Counseling Center may refer medical students to other academics or community health care providers for further/follow-up care.

3) Inform staff in the Student Counseling Center or at Wellness 360 that they are students at the SoM.

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