

## 1. Purpose

To provide recommendations for hosting members of the public or anyone not licensed under the *Medical Professions Act* for the purpose of observing or job shadowing a physician's practice, activities and patient interactions in the interest of potential future health profession education of the observer.

## 2. Definitions

**Observership or shadowing** refers to observing a medical professional's daily tasks, responsibilities and patient interactions to gain insights into a particular career path.

**Member of the public** refers to any person not enrolled in an approved medical degree (MD) university program and/or not employed by the Yukon Hospital Corporation (i.e., observer)

## 3. Scope

While the *Medical Professions Registration and Fees Regulation* speaks to an educational register for undergraduate medical and post graduate medical students, the Yukon medical profession legislation is silent on other persons participating in medical settings or observing physicians in practice.

## 4. Background

The Yukon Medical Council (YMC) occasionally receives inquiries from members of the public seeking an endorsement for observership or shadowing opportunities with local physicians. The Yukon Hospital Corporation (YHC) at their own discretion currently allows individuals to participate in observerships or job shadowing experiences. The practice within private and/or public clinics is at the clinic's discretion.

## 5. Policy

The YMC does not consider observership or job shadowing roles to be part of regulated practice.

Since the YMC does not consider observership or job shadowing roles to be part of regulated practice it does not speak to any requirements for such arrangements. No formal documentation will be issued to endorse such undertakings or relationships.

In any case where a complaint from a patient interaction arises, the supervising physician will be held totally accountable for all interactions of themselves and the observer in the matter.

## 6. Procedure

While the YMC supports a process that encourages the interest of aspiring future medical professionals the YMC expects that any physician who considers this undertaking with an observer should ensure the following:

- that the presence of an observer and the observer's full legal name is recorded in the patient chart for every patient interaction;
- that a proper confidentiality agreement between the physician and observer has been completed and is maintained in a manner accessible for review by the YMC;
- that the patient is aware of the observer's presence and that the patient understands that the observer is not an official medical student or health professional;
- that the patient consents to the presence of the observer and understands they have the right to decline their presence;
- that the observer must not assist the physicians in any way, including recording notes, taking histories or assisting in any procedures;

## 7. Applicable Legislation and Regulations

*Medical Profession Act*

[Medical Profession Registration and Fees Regulation](#) Section 11 Educational Register

## 8. Related Policies, Guidelines, or Standards of Practice

[medical staff rules - revised january 31 2022.pdf](#)

## 9. Policy History

Version	Description	YMC Meeting Minute Approval	In Force Date
Original	Creation of policy	November 28, 2025	December 1, 2025