

# **The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center**

## **Guidelines for Clinical Access Requests**

*Updated January 2023*

Leadership of the OSU Wexner Medical Center have developed this set of eligibility criteria for visiting scholars, physicians, and faculty interested in pursuing observational or educational experiences at OSUWMC. If your visiting scholar will be coming on a J1 Visa and/or staying for more than 6 months, please contact the COM immigration specialist before completing the packet.

**These criteria were designed based on the following goals:**

- Ensuring patient safety and quality of care
- Ensuring patient privacy and confidentiality
- Respecting the limits on OSUWMC's finite capacity for educational experiences
- Respecting the limits on the time of our faculty and staff to dedicate to these experiences
- Improving the ability of GME programs to evaluate and recruit high quality residency applicants
- Enhancing the relationship between OSUWMC and our affiliated international medical schools

**Incidental Patient Contact** (i.e., observation and/or shadowing): a purely observational educational experience that may include watching a credentialed OSUWMC clinician perform clinical work (e.g., obtaining personal histories, conducting physical exams, consultations, procedures, surgeries). The observer is not permitted to touch the patient, access the medical record, or participate in the procedure beyond a purely observational role. This may include incidental patient contact through approved OR access, clinical contact, or research-based contact.

**OR Access** (Operating room access for observation only):

Entering the operating room under the supervision and direction of a physician licensed to practice in the state of Ohio. Activities which may be acceptable include being present during therapies and treatment in ways that do not compromise the care of the patient; being present in the operating room but not performing procedures. The visitor must not have final responsibility for diagnosis and treatment. Making a diagnosis and entering it in a patient chart, prescribing treatment or medication administered by the physician or other health care professionals, or performing surgery is beyond the scope of acceptable actions. Requires scrubs for the visitor.

**Clinical Contact** (Patient observation in evaluation rooms only):

Entering into an evaluation of a patient under the supervision and direction of a physician licensed to practice in the state of Ohio. Activities which may be acceptable include being present during therapies and treatment in ways that do not compromise the care of the patient. The visitor must not have final responsibility for diagnosis and treatment. Making a diagnosis and entering it in a patient chart, prescribing treatment or medication administered by the physician or other health care professionals, or performing surgery is beyond the scope of acceptable actions. Requires scrubs and a white coat for the visitor.

**Research-Based Patient Observation** (Patient observation for research purposes only):

Primarily conducting research and potentially observing clinical care in the observation room or in an evaluation room in connection with a research project. Requires scrubs and/or white coat for the visitor.

**Questions may be forwarded to one of the following applicable offices:**

- Office of Global Health 614-292-3684
- Office of International Affairs 614-292-6101