

## **Best Practices Policy for AAAEP Members as related to Clinical Training Sites**

### **BACKGROUND**

**Clinical Affiliate Sites - Partnership** AAAEP members recognize and value the critical role of clinical training sites in every program. The partnerships between programs and their primary clinical sites for first-year students and specialty rotations for second and third-year students, are essential for achieving shared outcomes of providing high-quality experiences that meet the needs of students, the healthcare system, and, most importantly, patient care.

**Clinical Rotation - Affiliate Location** AAAEP members understand that proximity to the program location or region offers students the best opportunity for success. The shared history and local/regional interests that come with this proximity enhance the student learning experience. Additionally, it reduces the travel burden placed upon the learners and the local program, contributing to a more efficient and effective educational environment.

AAAEP members acknowledge that Senior external rotations may provide an opportunity for expansion of the profession into new areas around the country and that students may have an interest in an area outside of their local program.

### **BEST PRACTICES**

#### **Member Program Responsibilities – Clinical Affiliations**

Programs seeking to affiliate with or being sought after by clinical training sites should proactively inquire with potential sites about existing or developing affiliations with other AAAEP members. In cases where existing or developing affiliations exist, it is recommended that the program seeking the clinical sites coordinate and communicate with the existing or developing program(s). Such communication should prioritize ensuring the quality of healthcare education and protecting the interests of patients, rather than restricting competition or limiting access to training sites.

#### **Member Program Due Diligence Principles – Clinical Affiliations**

To foster a collaborative environment among AAAEP member programs, the following due diligence principles should be observed:

1. **Communication:** Clear and open communication between AAAEP member programs is essential to avoid any misunderstandings or conflicts regarding clinical training site locations. Sharing information about site availability, scheduling, and other pertinent details can facilitate efficient utilization of resources and minimize potential conflicts.
2. **Respect:** AAAEP member programs should respect each other's needs and priorities when it comes to clinical training sites. Programs should strive for cooperation and mutual support, ensuring that all programs have access to suitable training opportunities without hindering the established programs clinical sites.
3. **Transparency:** AAAEP member programs should maintain transparency regarding their clinical training site requirements. This includes communicating the number of students they need to place, the duration of placements, and any special requirements. Transparent communication helps facilitate efficient coordination and allocation of resources.

## **Student Clinical Rotation Goals - Clinical Affiliation Considerations**

Considering the unique needs and goals of students at different stages of their education, it is important to distinguish best practices for first-year clinical training sites from those for senior training sites:

### ***First-year clinical training sites:***

- Exposure: First-year students may greatly benefit from exposure to a variety of healthcare settings and patient populations. This exposure broadens their understanding and prepares them for diverse clinical scenarios.
- Supervision: First-year students require more intensive supervision and support to ensure they are learning the necessary skills and feel confident in their roles.
- Basic skills: First-year students should focus on developing essential clinical skills, such as taking patient histories, conducting physical exams, and developing anesthesia care plans.

### ***Senior clinical training sites:***

- Specialization: Senior students possess a better understanding of their clinical interests and needs. It is beneficial for them to train at sites that offer opportunities for specialization in their desired specialty areas.
- Complex cases: Senior students should be exposed to more complex cases and procedures that challenge their skills and knowledge. These experiences contribute to their advanced clinical development.

## **Member Program Collaboration - Mitigating Potential Disruptions**

For all healthcare education programs, it is crucial for them to collaborate closely with existing programs and clinical training sites to minimize any negative impact. The following best practices can help mitigate potential disruptions:

1. Conduct a needs assessment: Before establishing a new program, expanding an existing program (e.g., adding a satellite campus) or creating any new affiliation agreement(s) between the sponsoring institution and any clinical affiliate(s), perform a comprehensive needs assessment to identify the availability of clinical training sites in the area and understand the needs of existing programs. This assessment helps identify potential gaps or areas of overlap, informing decisions about program design and resource allocation.
2. Establish partnerships: All programs should proactively seek partnerships with novel or underutilized clinical training sites in the area. These partnerships build a collaborative network of healthcare education providers, ensuring effective utilization of resources and expanding training opportunities for students.
3. Be transparent: All programs must maintain transparency by openly communicating their plans and goals to existing programs and clinical training sites. Clearly expressing how they can work together and addressing potential concerns helps foster a collaborative environment and minimizes misunderstandings or conflicts.
4. Evaluate the impact: All programs should regularly assess the impact of their operations on existing clinical training sites. This evaluation should be conducted collaboratively with these

sites to identify any issues that arise and develop effective solutions. Such an approach ensures that all programs and training sites can operate optimally, providing high-quality education to students while maintaining the integrity of all programs.

Additionally:

A member program's representative should inquire with the Chair/Department leader/clinical coordinator of any site which a member program is currently affiliated for student rotations and then contact that/those affiliated program/programs consistent with these principles of due diligence.

AAAEP member programs within a given state should receive initial communication from other member programs with interest in or intent to seek clinical affiliation within that state.

#### **MEMBER ADHERENCE TO BEST PRACTICES**

**AAAEP Membership Expectations & Outcomes** It is an expectation that AAAEP member programs will adhere to these best practices, and by doing so will establish and maintain strong relationships with clinical training sites, fostering a supportive and collaborative environment that benefits students, the healthcare system, and patient care.

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