

Expectations for Observers

The general purpose of an Observership is to watch and listen only with no patient contact and no research activity. Observerships are undertaken solely for the purposes of gaining knowledge to be utilized in the observer's practice at their home institution. There will be no compensation, no fringe or benefits, no educational credit, and no employment relationship with BCH in connection with the Observership.

The following guidelines apply to the participation in the Observership Program:

- Observerships are generally available for currently practicing, licensed clinicians to watch and listen with no hands-on patient contact or research activity. Observerships may include programs for residents, fellows, and other clinicians (e.g. psychologists, social workers, nutritionist) as determined by the host department.
- Observers must be currently practicing with a home institution affiliation or be enrolled in a formal training program such as a residency or fellowship.
- The Observership Program generally is not intended to include: individuals who are not enrolled or have completed medical school, USMLE applicants, or individuals intending to complete research projects.
- Observer will not be permitted any direct, physical patient contact and may not perform any patient services which includes, but is not limited to, performing the following functions: taking medical history, performing physical examination, diagnosing and treating patient's condition, prescribing and administering drugs, writing notes or orders in patient's chart, performing and assisting in a procedure, or billing for services rendered. Observers may be present during case discussions, but may not directly participate in case advisement and under no circumstances, should discuss any patient seen or encountered (this includes verbal, written, and electronic communication).
- Observers must be clearly identified to all patients and staff, and permission must be obtained from each patient (or proxy) for observer to be present during any encounter / procedure. Should a patient request an observer to leave at any point during an encounter, the observer must leave at once. An observer may not behave or speak in any manner that would lead a patient to believe that s/he is a practicing clinician on staff at BCH.
- Observerships are limited to four weeks, but can be extended up to twelve weeks with appropriate department approval.
- Observer will not be permitted to engage in research activity involving a research laboratory, research protocol, or a research project/paper.
- Observers are responsible for their personal transportation, accommodations, meals, medical insurance, required immunizations and any other personal expenses incurred while at BCH.
- Observers must comply with the minimum insurance guidelines provided by the Observership Program office. BCH will not be responsible for any coverage not included by the insurance policy.

- Observers will complete prior to the commencement of the Observership a health status assessment which complies with all applicable BCH policies, rules and regulations, and immunization requirements. Observers will refrain from patient care observation at any time if the observer has an infectious disease or condition that could be transmitted to patients.
- Observers are not practicing physicians at BCH and therefore malpractice insurance is not required.
- Observers must wear an ID badge provided by Human Resources upon completion of the institutional orientation and prior to entering the hosting department. The badge will display the title of “Observer” and must be returned to the Observership Program office at the end of the observer appointment.
- Observers will not be considered employees or staff members of BCH and will not be entitled to salary, benefits, reimbursement of expenses or other compensation; nor will this Observer appointment apply towards elective credit or transcripts for completion of educational programs (i.e., clinical schools, residencies or fellowships).
- BCH will not provide any letters of reference, recommendation or commendation on behalf of Observers; upon successful completion of an Observership, a certificate of attendance will be issued by the Observership Program office.
- Observers must comply with all BCH standards, rules and regulations, as well as all applicable federal, state and local laws pertaining to government health care programs.
- Disclosure of confidential patient or other BCH information is prohibited by BCH policy and during the term of the Observership, the Observer may have access to confidential patient and other BCH information such as: BCH business information, machines, technologies, and active research and development activities in the Boston Children's Hospital including but not limited to the Simulator Program, SIMEngineering, SIMInventor Space, SIMPeds SIM3D Print locations; research information, including information describing or relating to inventions or discoveries; information concerning outside companies with which BCH does business, including data BCH is contractually obligated to keep confidential.
- In the event the Observer is permitted to take photographs or is given materials, the Observer will only use the foregoing for educational purposes and will not copy or redistribute to any third party without prior written permission from BCH.
- The Observer, faculty host or BCH may terminate this appointment at any time and for any reason prior to the scheduled conclusion of the observer appointment by providing written or oral notice to the other party. The Observer acknowledges that there is no grievance, appeal or other due process procedures available to challenge the termination of an Observer appointment.

Observers May:

- Attend BCH conferences, lectures, seminars and committee meetings with prior approval from clinical host division and mentor. Observe both inpatient and outpatient clinical activities with prior approval from host division and mentor.
- Have a basic network logon and “read only” access to PowerChart (if approved by the host division).

Observers May Not:

- Administer treatment or render services to patients.
- Be involved in obtaining patient consent for any encounter or procedure (clinical or research).
- Participate in patient care management, including writing orders or notes in patient records and / or giving verbal orders related to patient care.
- Be listed in the BCH telephone directory.
- Access any clinical or research electronic information systems applications under any other users.
- Publish any works that imply a formal affiliation with BCH.
- Obligate BCH financially or suggest or imply that s/he is acting with the authority of BCH.

Visitor Dress Code

- Business or business casual attire (dress pants, dress shirt and tie, close-toed shoes). Observers are expected to present themselves in a neat, polished and professional manner.
- If a clinical department requires that an observer wears a lab coat, the observer is required to wear the lab coat issued by their home institution. BCH will not provide lab coats.
- The following items should NOT be worn in the hospital:
 - Jeans, shorts, mini-skirts, sweatpants, sneakers or flip-flops
 - Hats or caps, unless part of a uniform
 - Clothing with suggestive themes or content inappropriate for children
 - Clothing with political content or with slogans
 - Tank tops, halter-tops, tube tops, sleeveless t-shirts and other very casual summer clothing
 - Distracting or revealing clothing

I understand and agree to abide by the expectations outlined above.