

Marshall University
Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine
Medical Student Illicit Drug and Alcohol Screening Policy

Entering the medical profession is a profound privilege and responsibility to not only oneself but to future patients. As such, medical students should hold themselves to the highest of standards. This policy is intended to improve the culture and reputation of the Marshall University Joan C. Edwards School of Medicine (MUJCESOM). Substance abuse is not appropriate for medical students as it is a reflection of poor judgement that can affect personal lives, professional careers, and the lives of our current and future patients and their families. The intent is that current and future MUJCESOM students continue to foster an environment of professionalism and integrity. Formal education will occur at matriculation and annually thereafter regarding substance abuse and its impact on health care providers and their patients; the roles and responsibilities of the WVMPHP in providing testing, evaluation and treatment of substance abuse; and the responsibility of all members of the MUJCESOM community in reporting incidents of substance abuse.

This policy expands and complements the Student Impairment Policy.

REQUIREMENT FOR TESTING

- Drug testing is required for all matriculating students during or shortly after orientation and third year medical students prior to beginning clinical clerkships.
- Random drug and alcohol testing of no more than 10% of enrolled students can occur at any time at the discretion of the administration with a recommendation of at least 2 random screenings per academic year.
- Two or more expressions of concerns from any combination of classmate, faculty, attending, staff or administrator will be considered reason for testing of the student in question.
- No student is exempt from random or probable cause drug testing including students in leadership positions.

PROCEDURES UPON A POSITIVE RESULT:

- The student will be removed from classes and/or clinical duties and placed on administrative leave until formal assessment is completed. Return to academic responsibilities are handled on a case by case basis and in coordination with the WVMPHP.
- The student has the right to review and provide explanation for any positive drug or alcohol screen with any person from the administration including the Dean, Vice Dean of Medical Education, Assistant Dean of Student Affairs or the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs.

- Confirmatory testing may be required or at the request of the student or administration.
- First Offense: The student will be referred to the WV Medical Professionals Health Program (PHP) for a formal assessment to assure no emotional distress is present and student safety is confirmed. The student will be subject to increased frequency of drug and alcohol testing and counseling as recommended by the PHP. Upon satisfactory completion/compliance of such a program, the student has the right to have their record expunged.
- Second Offense/Non-compliant First Offense: Student will be referred to the Substance Use Advisory Board (SUAB) which consists of the Dean, the Vice Dean of Medical Education, and the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs.
- Any student who fails a screening or refuses to comply with the recommendations of the WVMPHP will automatically be referred to the SUAB who at their discretion can refer the student on to the Academic and Professionalism Standards Committee.
- Any student who refuses drug or alcohol testing is subjected to referral to the Academic and Professionalism Standards Committee for immediate dismissal.

ADDITIONAL CONSEQUENCES:

- Any student with a positive result who holds a leadership position will be removed from their position and ineligible for further election.
- Any student with a positive result will be removed from the list of students eligible for AOA as provided by the selection committee by the administration.

Distribution of Illicit Drugs

- Any student proven to be distributing drugs of any kind, both prescription and non-prescription will automatically be referred to the Academic and Professionalism Standards Committee and will be subject to immediate dismissal.

For Non-prescribed use

- Any student suspected of using prescription medication without proper proof of a physician's prescription in their name will be subject to the same policies as above.

Student Professional Responsibility

- It is the professional responsibility of any student to report any concerns of using or distributing drugs and/or overconsumption of alcohol.
- Students with signs or symptoms of impairment should be reported to the Assistant Dean of Student Affairs, the Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs, the Vice Dean of Medical Education, or the Dean.
- "Red Flag" warning signs that possibly suggest impairment include but are not limited to the following:
 - Physical
 - Sleep disorders
 - Frequent accidents

- Eating disorders
- Deterioration in personal hygiene or appearance
- Multiple chronic physical complaints for which no physical basis has been found
- Family
 - Conflict
 - Disturbed spouse
 - Withdrawal from family members
 - Separation or divorce proceedings
 - Sexual problems, extramarital affairs
- Social
 - Isolation from peers
 - Withdrawal from outside activities
 - Embarrassing or inappropriate behavior at social functions
 - Driving while intoxicated
 - Unreliability, unpredictability
 - Interaction with police
- Depression
 - Risk-taking behavior
 - Tearfulness
 - Mention of death wish/suicide
 - Slowed behavior and attention
 - Flat or sad affect
 - Dilated or pin-point pupils
 - Wide swings in mood
 - Self-medication with psychotropic drugs
 - Alcohol on breath at work or in class
 - Uncontrolled drinking at social events
 - Concerns of spouse or significant other about alcohol or drugs
 - Moroseness
- In Hospital
 - Unexplained absences or chronic tardiness
 - Spending excessive time at the hospital
 - Inappropriate orders in responses to phone calls
 - Marked behavioral changes
 - Decreasing quality of or interest in work
 - Increasing difficulties with peers or staff
- In Academic Settings:
 - Absence from required classes or coursework
 - Any sharp variance in grades or academic performances
 - Change in behaviors
 - Unprofessional actions

Policy proposed by:

Class of 2018

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Treasurer: Katie Rollins

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Vice President: Hannah Datz

Secretary: Samuel Wood

Treasurer: Daniel Jayasuriya

Date Proposed: October 24, 2017

Approved by Academic and Professionalism Standards Committee

Date Approved: 5/24/2018

Approved by Dean

Date Approved: 6/4/2018