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Job Shadowing

Preamble

In 1998, the Ethical Standards and Conduct Review Committee drafted guidelines, which allowed limited job shadowing of physicians by high school students. While the guidelines were outlined in the *College Quarterly* they were not included in the Committee minutes, nor were they formally endorsed by Council.

In recent years, youth work experience programs have become more prevalent. With increased inquiries from both the public and physicians, the College has recognized that job shadowing poses significant concerns about patient confidentiality and privacy since students cannot adequately be held accountable to any sort of confidentiality agreement following the observation.

The College, therefore, does not support the practice of job shadowing by students in a physician's office, clinic or hospital setting.*

Specifically, Council regards the following:

- A student may not be present at confidential interviews or during any examination;
- A student may not have any direct patient contact, irrespective of consent;
- A student may not be present in the operating room.

* *Students who are enrolled in a regulated health professions program can be considered for job shadowing as part of their curriculum. As in any third party observation, physicians must obtain consent from their patients prior to the shadowing.*