



College of Medicine & Dentistry at the Hills, Abbottabad

Policy on Prohibition of Charging Students for Training-related Clinical Activities and Materials

FOR THE YEAR



1.0 Purpose and Rationale

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that **no medical student is charged**, directly or indirectly, for any costs associated with **clinical activities, procedures, rotations, consumables, or materials** required for mandatory academic and clinical training.

This policy upholds the principle that **medical education is an institutional responsibility**, and financial costs must **never hinder learning, patient safety, or equal access to training opportunities**.

The policy is developed in alignment with:

- **Pakistan Medical & Dental Council (PM&DC) Undergraduate Standards 2023**, which emphasize student support services, equitable access to training, and institutional responsibility for educational resources.
- **World Federation for Medical Education (WFME) Standards 2020**, requiring institutions to provide adequate educational materials and ensure student welfare.
- **Liaison Committee on Medical Education (LCME) Standard 12.8**, which prohibits charging students for required patient-care learning activities.

2.0 Scope

This policy applies to:

- All **MBBS and BDS** students
- All **faculty, supervisors, house officers, registrars, and administrative staff**
- All **affiliated teaching hospitals and training clinics**
- All **mandatory curricular activities** (pre-clinical classes, clinical rotations, clerkships, ward duties, skills laboratory activities)

3.0 Key Definitions

Student: Any individual enrolled in the MBBS or BDS program at the College of Medicine & Dentistry at the hills (CMDH) Abbottabad

Clinical Education / Work: Any diagnostic, therapeutic, surgical, or procedural activity performed during rotations, skills training, ward duty, or patient encounters under supervision

Essential Materials: Gloves, syringes, cannulas, sutures, gauze, basic disposables, logbook stationery, lab items, Skill-Laboratory consumables, and other necessary items required for training

Affiliated Site: Any hospital, laboratory, or clinic formally recognized for rotation of student for clinical education

4.0 Policy Statement

4.1 General Prohibition



No student shall be charged for **any** of the following:

- Clinical procedures performed as mandatory curriculum requirements
- Participation in clinical rotations, clerkships, or studentship duties
- Consumables (gloves, gauze, cannulas, syringes, sutures, etc.) used during training
- Use of Skills Laboratory ,laboratory equipments, clinical teaching resources, or training models
- Emergency or routine materials needed while learning under supervision

Any from of is prohibited, even if converd with fancy labels like, “clinical fee,” “material utilization fee,” or “procedure fee”.

4.2 Institutional Responsibility

The college and its affiliated hospitals are fully responsible for:

- Providing adequate materials and equipment for all student activities
- Ensuring zero billing linkage between student learning and hospital patient billing
- Maintaining transparent procurement systems for training-related supplies

This aligns with:

- **PM&DC Standard ,2.3 & 4.2:** Institutions must provide adequate resources for training and ensure students face no unjustified financial barriers.
- **WFME Standard 3.2.2:** Institutions must supply facilities and materials necessary for students to achieve learning outcomes.

4.3 Patients Must Not Be Charged for Student-Led Training Procedures

Under PM&DC, hospital ethics guidelines, and international accreditation norms:

- Patients **shall not be billed** for procedures performed solely for student training.
- Students are never to be presented as fee-for-service providers.
- Supervisors are responsible for maintaining ethical and transparent clinical practices.

5.0 Exclusions

The following do not fall under the “free provision” obligation:

1. **Personal medical tools** (stethoscope, sohygmomanometer, otoscope)
2. **Standard academic charges** listed in the college fee structure (tuition, examination fee, hostel charges, etc.)
3. **Elective programs**, international observerships, conferences
4. **Cost due to proven negligence**, breakage, or willful misuse of equipment

6.0 Implementation & Compliance



6.1 Dissemination

The policy will be:

- Published in the Students Handbook
- Shared during orientation visit
- Uploaded to the official website of the collage
- Communicated to hospital administration and faculty

6.2 Departmental Responsibility

Heads of Departments must ensure:

- Full compliance in wards, clinics, laboratory, and areas of clinical rotation
- No direct or indirect collection of money from students
- Monitoring of supplies used for teaching

6.3 Reporting Violations (Grievance Mechanism)

Students may report violations confidentially through:

1. Clinical Supervisor
2. Head of Department
3. **Dean / Administrator of Clinical Education**
4. **College Ombudsperson**

Reports must be investigated within a defined and transparent timeline.

6.4 Zero Retaliation

Students reporting violations are protected from retaliation under PM&DC's student welfare principles and general academic ethics guidelines

7.0 Alignment with PM&DC, National, and International Standards

PM&DC Standards (Pakistan):

- Require institutions to ensure “student welfare,” “adequate resources,” and “ethical clinical training environment.”
- Emphasize that **no financial obstacles** should interfere with learning outcomes.

WFME (Global Standard):

- Institutions must provide all facilities and materials necessary for students-----free of financial burden.

LCME Standard 12.8 (International Reference):

- Medical students **cannot be charged** for materials or activities linked to mandatory patient-care learning requirements.

This policy ensures CMDH Abbottabad meets the **highest national and global benchmarks** of medical education.

