



OBSERVATION PRIVILEGES STANDARDS (rev. May 2023)

These standards apply to all CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care (CSRHC) Hospitals (Alamo Heights, Medical Center, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Westover Hills, and CHRISTUS Children's).

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) requires additional approval for individuals who request an observership with BCM faculty at CHRISTUS Children's. The additional approval process is managed by the BCM faculty member who is designated as Sponsor.

These standards are designed for individuals seeking to evaluate a potential interest in pursuing a career in medicine. It provides guidelines for how an individual may shadow a medical staff member in their day-to-day work activities for a time limited period to learn about aspects of the sponsors' professional career.

This does NOT apply to individuals seeking academic credit, "hands-on" educational experiences, volunteer opportunities, research opportunities, or professional development.

Definitions:

A. Observer – a person known by and invited by a Sponsor to enter the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care (CSRHC) premises for the express purpose of observing medical staff members to evaluate a potential interest in pursuing a career in the Sponsor's medical field.

B. Observership – an on-campus, time-limited, observation-only experience that is intended to provide brief, rather than continuous or intermittent, access to the hospital learning and working environment. Observerships never include hands-on training or result in academic or professional credit for the Observer.

C. Sponsor – a CSRHC actively credentialed Medical Staff member who accepts responsibility for the oversight and activities of the Observer.

D. Medical Staff Member – an actively credentialed provider who maintains full privileges at the Hospital as provided in the Medical Staff Bylaws.

Qualifications:

Applicants for observation privileges must be high school graduates (18 years of age or older) who are preparing to start college, students currently enrolled in a U.S. college or post-graduate program, or 1st or 2nd year medical students from currently affiliated medical schools. (New affiliation agreements will not be executed for this purpose.)

International students, international physicians, and non-credentialed physicians or allied health providers are not eligible for Observation privileges.

Applicants must ascertain authorization for the observation by an actively credentialed CHRISTUS Santa Rosa medical staff member who is known personally to them.

Applicants must complete HIPAA training.

Applicants must provide documentation of current immunization status as required.

Restrictions:

Observers are limited to no more than 12 per quarter throughout the CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care facilities.

Sponsors/Sponsor departments are prohibited from providing Observers with any “hands-on” learning activities or training (in any capacity) during an Observership.

Observership requests cannot exceed one (1) month in duration.

Requests for additional or successive Observerships are not allowed.

Sponsors are not permitted to provide Observers with letters of recommendation or letters of reference arising out of the Observership experience.

Those who meet the qualifications and are approved for Observation privileges must follow the following standards:

1. The maximum length of an Observership is one (1) month and is approved based upon availability of providers and teaching resources. The Observer’s experience must not pose an undue burden on the academic teaching program(s) at the hospital.
2. Observers must always remain with their Sponsor and are not allowed to be left alone with patients, other providers, physicians-in-training, or students.
3. The Sponsor must receive agreement from all patients, in private and without the Observer present, prior to allowing the Observer to enter a patient’s room.
4. Observers must always wear their CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Observation ID badge, to clearly identify their non-clinical role.
5. Observers will not be permitted to wear white coats or any type of medical paraphernalia which might be construed as that worn by a medical staff provider or be introduced to patients as anything other than an Observer.
6. Observers may not have any direct patient contact.
7. Observers may not access the EMR, enter isolation rooms, or scrub into the operating room.
8. Observers in the operating room are allowed only passive viewing of a surgical procedure from a monitor outside of the sterile surgical field. Observers shall remain in the area designated for Observation and are not at any time or for any reason to enter the sterile surgical field.
9. Observers must follow the same hand hygiene protocol as required in the hospital environment.
10. The Sponsor is responsible for the conduct of the observer.
11. Observers are not provided with access to secure areas of the hospital and can only access secure areas with their Sponsor. Sponsors and other providers must not ‘lend’ their ID badge to Observers to allow access on their own, as this is a violation of security protocol.
12. Observers are not provided with free parking or free meals on campus.