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Information on indemnity issues for students undertaking approved clinical placements, including Elective Term placements

All students enrolled in the University of Sydney Medical Program undertake clinical attachments. These attachments take the form of a standard curriculum requirement or an approved elective placement.

Clinical attachments may be hospital based or community based, or may have components of each. In all attachments a nominated supervisor has accepted responsibility for the educational and clinical supervision of the student. The documentation for each clinical attachment specifies the rights and responsibilities of students and supervisors, as well as any specific limitations upon the activities of the student.

Students are not registered medical practitioners, and are therefore not registered to practise medicine in any capacity. Their student status (as registered with the NSW Medical Board) allows them to undertake supervised clinical activity in an approved clinical attachment. The University of Sydney will provide financial protection for claims against students (either by way of insurance or other mechanism) for activities that the students may perform in relation to approved placements and electives. Thus, if a claim is made against a student in relation to activities performed in an approved placement or elective, the university will provide a legal defence and, where necessary, meet the cost of such a claim either through its insurance policies or from other resources. Details of the current University insurance policy are available at:
http://www.usyd.edu.au/risk/insurance/work_exp.shtml

If students or supervisors have further queries relating to the level of indemnity insurance that they have while undertaking approved attachments they should contact the Faculty of Medicine Office (61-2 -9351 5472) from overseas or (02) 9351 5472 from within Australia.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Bruce Robinson
Dean
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