

OBSERVER TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

The purpose of an Observer Appointment is defined in the strictest sense as “watching and listening only with no patient contact and no research activity.” An observer is able to attend Grand Rounds, observe attending physicians, and participate in conferences and/or teaching seminars. The Observer appointment is undertaken solely for the purposes of gaining knowledge to be utilized in the applicants practice at their home institution, and understand that there will be no access to clinical systems, no compensation, no fringe benefits, **no educational credit**, and no employment relationship with MD Anderson in connection with this observership.

The following guidelines apply to the participation in “observation” with the Observer Program:

- 1) Observer will not receive any academic credit or an educational certificate for this experience, and Observer will not be considered a student, resident, fellow, rotator or trainee of the hosting department at MD Anderson. A verification of appointment is available upon request.
- 2) Observer will not be permitted any direct, physical patient contact and may not perform any patient services which includes, but is not limited to, performing the following functions: taking medical history, performing physical examination, diagnosing and treating patient’s condition, prescribing and administering drugs, writing notes or orders in patient’s chart, performing and assisting in a procedure, or billing for services rendered. Observer acknowledges that providing medical care to patients in violation of this Observer Agreement may result in civil liability, licensing sanctions and criminal penalties.
- 3) Observer will also not be permitted to engage in research activity involving a research laboratory, research protocol, or a research project/paper.
- 4) Observer will not be considered an employee or staff member of MD Anderson and will not be entitled to salary, benefits, reimbursement of expenses or other compensation; nor will this observer appointment apply towards elective credit or transcripts for completion of educational programs (*i.e.*, clinical schools, residencies or fellowships).
- 5) Observer understands that he/she must be accompanied by the hosting faculty or a department representative throughout the observer appointment. The observer understands he/she must also be accompanied by an MD Anderson attending physician when observing patient care activities. Observer will have no access to patients or to patient records (*e.g.*, Clinic Station, other clinical information systems or hard copies of clinical records).
- 6) Observer must wear an ID badge provided by Human Resources upon completion of the institutional orientation and prior to entering the hosting department. The badge will display the title of “**Observer**” and must be returned to the Observer’s Department Administrator at the end of the observer appointment.
- 7) Observer attests to having had a health status assessment which complies with all applicable MD Anderson policies, rules and regulations, as would otherwise be evidenced by a completed Immunization Form and applicable reports (This is a separate form uploaded to the Discover system). Observer agrees to refrain from patient care observation at any time Observer has an infectious disease or condition that could be transmitted to patients.
- 8) Observer, the faculty host or MD Anderson may terminate this appointment at any time and for any reason prior to the scheduled conclusion of the observer appointment by providing written or oral notice to the other party. Observer acknowledges that there is no grievance, appeal or other due process procedures available to challenge the termination of an observer appointment.