Module 9

INTERPERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS IN CLINICAL EDUCATION

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Positive Interpersonal Relationships in Clinical Education

As a preceptor, you will be closely observed by students who desire to become an AT; therefore, it is extremely important that you demonstrate interpersonal relationships that encourage students regarding the profession of athletic training

Clinical Preceptor and Athletic Training Student Relationships

Preceptors must form appropriate and professional relationships with students

The preceptor must be seen as a professional supervisor by the students, any relationship beyond that is inappropriate

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Clinical Preceptor Relationships

Preceptors must model appropriate and professional interpersonal relationships when interacting with colleagues, patients/clients and administrators

- An effective preceptor must demonstrate appropriate relationships with the individuals that he/she interacts with while performing his/her professional duties
- Inappropriate relationships discourage future professionals and may constitute unethical behavior

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Advocating for Athletic Training Students

Preceptors should appropriately advocate for students when interacting with colleagues, patients/clients and administrators

The student represents the future professional

The effective preceptor should advocate for students when discussing their involvement in the health care of patients/clients

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Clinical Preceptors as Positive Role Models

Preceptors are a positive role model and mentor for students

- The preceptor who does not serve as a positive role model discourages future students from entering the profession
- Athletic training is an allied health care profession; thus the preceptor's behavior and interpersonal relationships should reflect this

Nondiscrimination and Demeanor

Preceptors must demonstrate respect for gender, racial, ethnic, religious and individual differences when interacting with people

- Allied health care providers provide quality services to all individuals; hence, preceptors must demonstrate this to students by their words and actions
- Preceptors must have an open and approachable demeanor to students when working in the clinical setting
- Students want to learn from preceptors
    - A preceptor that is not open and approachable creates an atmosphere where the student feels that he/she is not welcomed and therefore will not seek the preceptor's instruction and evaluation

Managing Problems with Athletic Training Students

1. Initial communication between preceptors and students
   - Documentation recommended
2. Contact Clinical Education Coordinator if repeated problems occur or severity of incident is extreme
   - Documentation recommended
3. Schedule meeting(s) between preceptor(s), student, Clinical Education Coordinator and Program Director to discuss conflict resolution
   - Documentation required

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