



Procedure: Application of McGill Regulation on Conflict of Interest

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Purpose: This procedure document is not meant to supersede McGill University's [Regulation on Conflict of Interest \(COI\)](#) that applies to all members of the university. This procedure document is meant to complement McGill's regulation on COI and clarify how COI is interpreted in the MDCM Program.

McGill University has a comprehensive [Regulation on Conflict of Interest \(COI\)](#) that applies to all members of the university, including the faculty members and students of the School of Medicine. McGill also offers guidelines on [Intimate Relationships between Teaching Staff and Students](#).

Given the nature of the MDCM Program and the clinical work of physicians, a specific UGME Procedures document outlining the particularities of this regulation for UGME members may be useful.

The McGill Regulation on COI defines a related party as:

- (i) a Member's immediate family;
- (ii) a Person living in the Member's household;
- (iii) a Person with whom a Member has, or had, a close or intimate personal relationship;
- (iv) a Person with whom the Member shares, directly or indirectly, a financial or other interest;
- (v) or a Person to whom the Member owes a financial or moral obligation.

From this definition, it is interpreted that:

- a medical student's relative who is a physician working in a McGill-affiliated clinical setting is a related party (e.g., medical student is the child of an orthopedist at the JGH, medical student is the niece of a family physician working at the GMF-U at Gatineau hospital, medical student is a cousin of an internal medicine resident).
- a clinician who is caring or has cared for a medical student as part of their clinical duties owes a moral obligation to that student (e.g., a psychiatrist at the Douglas following a medical student for an anxiety disorder, a gastroenterologist at the MGH following a medical student for an inflammatory bowel disorder).

In all these situations, a COI exists, or could appear to exist. Such COI must be disclosed and managed. Specific examples of management of COI that may arise commonly in the UGME context include:

- A physician and a medical student who are related parties, as in any of the examples mentioned above cannot assess or be involved in decisions about promotion or graduation of a medical student.



- a medical student cannot be assessed by a relative during any MDCM Program courses, including electives and visiting electives (even if the related member is not a member of the McGill community, they still meet the definition of a related party)
- healthcare providers (including for psychological and psychiatric services) cannot have any involvement in the assessment or in decisions related to promotion and graduation of the student to whom they are currently providing care, or previously provided care during which they developed a substantive clinician-patient relationship.

In the event of a potential conflict of interest:

Faculty

- It is the responsibility of the faculty member to immediately complete the [McGill COI long form](#) if their relative or a person meeting the related party definition is admitted into the MDCM Program.

Student

- It is the responsibility of the student to inquire in advance if they think that they may be in a conflict of interest when assigned to a particular course, discipline, and site. In cases where a student has a personal relationship with a physician or resident, they need to declare their COI upon admission to the MDCM Program (prior to the MDCM Program orientation session), during the Transition to Clinical Practice (TCP) and Clerkship matching questionnaire. UGME will not assign the student at that site in that discipline.
- In cases where a student has an academic relationship with a physician at McGill Health Services or at any other clinic, the student has the right to request that McGill Health Services or any other clinic refer that student to another physician.
- In cases where a student may come to have an academic relationship with a physician who has previously provided the student medical care at McGill Health Services or at any other clinic, the student has the right (and the student and the physician share the responsibility) to ensure that the physician recuses themselves from subsequent assessment of the student. Students are requested to declare their relationship with a healthcare provider to the [Office for Medical Learners Affairs \(OMLA\)](#) prior to the TCP and Clerkship stream matching, in order to preserve the confidential information of the student and to ensure that the student will not be assigned to the site and discipline where their healthcare provider works. The OMLA will inform UGME that a site accommodation is required for that student. Should a student face an exceptional circumstance where they require urgent care or care following the clinical placement allocation, a student can contact OMLA to request an alternative site allocation or change in supervisor (if there is no site capacity to move the student to another site).