



SCOPE OF PRACTICE

USF Forensic Pathology Fellowship
Director of Program: Ashley Perkins, DO
USF Health Morsani College of Medicine
University of South Florida

This document pertains to rotations under the auspices of the USF Forensic Pathology Fellowship at The Hillsborough County Medical Examiner Office. All Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Joint Commission (JC), Agency for Health Care Administration (AHCA), and CMS guidelines pertaining to graduate medical education apply to this scope of practice.

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that residents are provided adequate and appropriate levels of supervision during the course of the educational training experience and to ensure that patient care continues to be delivered in a safe manner. The privilege of progressive authority and responsibility, conditional independence, and a supervisory role in patient care delegated to each resident is assigned by the program director and faculty members to ensure effective oversight of resident supervision.

Each resident and faculty must inform each patient of their respective roles in patient care. Residents must know the limits of his/her scope of authority and the circumstances under which he/she is permitted to act with conditional independence. Fellows must communicate with the supervising faculty in the following circumstances; during collection of hair and fingernails, completing a FDLE rape kit, when performing a posterior or lateral neck dissection, when comparing ante and postmortem dental and somatic x-rays, with and diagnosis venous air embolism, to evaluate skeletal injuries in infants and children, for facial dissection and posterior body dissection for deaths in custody, for cervical spine dissection for child abuse cases, and while on scene investigations. Supervision may be provided by more senior residents in addition to attendings. However, all patient care must be provided under a credentialed and privileged attending physician. The attending physician is ultimately responsible for management of the individual patients and the supervision of the residents involved in the care of the patient. Supervision must be documented in the medical record in accordance with the USF Forensic Pathology Fellowship Program at the University of South Florida compliance guidelines.

Residents and faculty can report concerns regarding inadequate supervision on the GME website or the hospital reporting system. Any reports will be protected from reprisal. This document is available on the GME website for all residents, faculty, other team members, and patients.

The program follows the ACGME classification of supervision as noted below. The supervising physician can refer to a faculty, fellow, or resident that who has been given supervisory privilege. These supervisory levels are used throughout the Scope of Practice document.

Direct Supervision

- 1) The supervising physician is physically present with the Resident during the key portions of the patient interaction.

- 2) The supervising physician and/or patient is not physically present with the Resident and the supervising physician is concurrently monitoring the patient care through appropriate telecommunication technology.

Indirect Supervision

The supervising physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available to the Resident for guidance and is available to provide appropriate direct supervision.

Oversight

The supervising physician is available to provide review of procedures/encounters with feedback after care is delivered.

The residency program has a curriculum for providing knowledge and performance competence that includes completion of procedure training/simulation 3 times under direct supervision before obtaining level 2 or 3 supervision. Annual decisions about competence are made by the program's clinical competency committee to ensure a successful transition and preparation for the next PGY level. All residents need to maintain current ACLS training.

	Supervising Physician present (Direct)	Supervising Physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available (Indirect)	Supervising physician is available to provide a review of procedures /encounters with feedback after care is delivered	
Designated Levels	1	2	3	See below for level of supervision required for each procedure and year of training
EVIDENCE COLLECTION				PGY-5
Collect hair and fingernails				1
FDLE rape kit				1
INTERPRETATION				PGY-5
Interpret radiographs to diagnose pelvic, skull and extremity fractures				2
Identification and localization of foreign bodies				2
Identify normal organs in H&E stained tissue sections				3

	Supervising Physician present (Direct)	Supervising Physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available (Indirect)	Supervising physician is available to provide a review of procedures /encounters with feedback after care is delivered	
Designated Levels	1	2	3	See below for level of supervision required for each procedure and year of training
Identify disease and artifact in H&E stained tissue sections				3
PHOTOGRAPHY				PGY-5
Photography of the body with a 35-millimeter camera: internal organs, lesions and other pertinent findings and external or internal identification markings				3
AUTOPSY PERFORMANCE / TECHNIQUES				PGY-5
External Examination				2
In situ organ inspection				2
Evisceration				2
Posterior neck dissection				1
Lateral neck dissection				1
Anterior neck dissection				2
Leg dissection for venous exam				2
Open skull with oscillating saw				2
Remove spine with oscillating saw				2
Blocking of cardiac conduction system				2
Un-roof middle ears and paranasal sinus				2
Removal of eyes (posterior approach)				2

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	Supervising Physician present (Direct)	Supervising Physician is not providing physical or concurrent visual or audio supervision but is immediately available (Indirect)	Supervising physician is available to provide a review of procedures /encounters with feedback after care is delivered	
Designated Levels	1	2	3	See below for level of supervision required for each procedure and year of training
Flood pericardium to detect bubbles in heart				2
Compare ante and postmortem dental x-rays				1
Compare ante and postmortem somatic x-rays				1
Diagnosis venous air embolism				1
Evaluate skeletal injuries in infants and children				1
Interpret radiographs to localized bullets and other projectiles				2
Facial dissection 1for deaths in custody				1
Posterior body dissection for deaths in custody				1
Cervical spine dissection for child abuse cases				1
SCENE INVESTIGATION				PGY-5
Scene investigation				1
FINAL AUTOPSY AND SCENE REPORT				PGY-5
Dictate autopsy findings once and with few corrections				3
Dictate scene investigation once and with few corrections				3
Dictate summary and conclusion with well supported conclusions				3

Signed by:

Ashley Perkins, DO

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Ashley Perkins, DO
Program Director, USF Forensic Pathology Fellowship

June 16, 2025

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Required hardware and software

Operating Systems:	Windows2000? or WindowsXP?
Browsers (for SENDERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0? or above
Browsers (for SIGNERS):	Internet Explorer 6.0?, Mozilla FireFox 1.0, NetScape 7.2 (or above)
Email:	Access to a valid email account
Screen Resolution:	800 x 600 minimum
Enabled Security Settings:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Allow per session cookies•Users accessing the internet behind a Proxy Server must enable HTTP 1.1 settings via proxy connection

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