



OBSERVATION PRIVILEGES STANDARDS (rev. July 2024)

These standards apply to all CHRISTUS Santa Rosa Health Care (CSRHC) Hospitals (Alamo Heights, Medical Center, New Braunfels, San Marcos, Westover Hills, and CHRISTUS Children's).

Baylor College of Medicine (BCM) requires additional approval for individuals who request an observership with BCM faculty at CHRISTUS Children's. The additional approval process is managed by the BCM faculty member who is designated as Sponsor.

The observership experience is designed for the following individuals:

- International resident physicians from currently affiliated residency programs who are eligible to apply for observation privileges;
 - U.S. and international medical students from currently affiliated medical schools who are eligible to apply for observation privileges;
 - Practicing physicians/clinical faculty members from currently affiliated facilities who are eligible to apply for observation privileges.
- A. Every Observer will have a Sponsor (approved CHRISTUS Health medical staff member).
- B. Observers will not have direct patient contact or engage in any hands-on patient care activities. This does not preclude Observers from engaging in simulation activities.
- C. There is no expectation that Sponsors will provide letters of recommendation or letters of reference arising out of the observership experience but may do so at their own discretion.
- D. Qualifications for Observership
1. Applicants must be approved by an active member of the CHRISTUS facility's medical staff.
 2. Applicants must complete HIPAA training.
 3. Applicants must provide documentation of current immunization status as required.
 4. Applicants must complete any additional facility-specific requirements.
 5. Applicants must complete a background check.
- E. Observation Privileges Standards
1. The length of the observership is at the discretion of the CHRISTUS facility and the CHRISTUS facility's medical staff (no longer than 30 days). The Observer's experience must not pose an undue burden on the academic teaching program(s) at the hospital.
 2. Observers must always remain with their Sponsor or another delegated member of the medical staff; and are not allowed to be left alone with patients, other non-physician providers, physicians-in-training, or students.

3. The Sponsor must receive agreement from all patients, in private and without the Observer present, prior to allowing the Observer to enter a patient's room.
 4. Observers must always wear their CHRISTUS Health Observer ID badge, to clearly identify their non-clinical role.
 5. Observers will not be permitted to wear white coats or any type of medical paraphernalia which might be construed as that worn by a medical staff provider or be introduced to patients as anything other than an Observer.
 6. Observers may not access the EMR, enter isolation rooms, or scrub into the operating room.
 7. Observers in the operating room are allowed only passive viewing of a surgical procedure from a monitor outside of the sterile surgical field. Observers shall remain in the area designated for Observation and are not at any time or for any reason to enter the sterile surgical field.
 8. Observers must follow the same hand hygiene protocol as required in the hospital environment.
 9. The Sponsor is responsible for the conduct of the Observer.
 10. Observers are not provided with access to secure areas of the hospital and can only access secure areas with their Sponsor. Sponsors and other providers must not 'lend' their ID badge to Observers to allow access on their own, as this is a violation of security protocol.
- F. CHRISTUS Health facilities may design their own site-specific procedures for processing and onboarding Observers.
- G. Observers are responsible for obtaining any necessary visas or travel documents required for entry into the United States and for ensuring they are permitted to remain in the United States for the length of the observership. CHRISTUS Health is not responsible for and will not assist international Observers with obtaining U.S. work authorization or green cards.
- H. No compensation, insurance coverage, benefits, or housing will be provided by CHRISTUS Health. CHRISTUS Health is not responsible for any medical care or extending the observership experience for any reason.
- I. Acceptance into an Observer position will not constitute a precedent or guarantee acceptance into residency training in programs sponsored by CHRISTUS Health.