

Lab and Clinical Experiences: Assumption of Risk

Clinical experiences (practicum and internships) are a required component of academic programs at Caldwell University, School of Psychology and Counseling. These experiences allow students to practice skills and techniques learned in didactic, laboratory and clinical courses as well as develop critical thinking skills that are important for health care providers. Clinical experiences occur in hospitals, clinics, schools, community organizations, and other appropriate settings where students can interact with individual patients, families and communities. Students may have the opportunity to be placed in a different setting, but alternative site options are not always available and changes may delay the completion of the student's degree.

Sites selected for students' clinical experiences are required to take reasonable and appropriate measures to protect students' health and safety in the clinical setting. Faculty will develop appropriate policies and procedures relating to student safety and prevention of exposure to disease. Students have the responsibility to report any potential exposures to the supervisor at their site as well as their Caldwell University faculty.

However, even with such measures, there are risks inherent to clinical experiences. Potential risks of completing clinical experiences include, but are not limited to:

- Exposure to infectious diseases through blood or other body fluids via skin, mucus membranes or parenteral contact
- Exposure to infectious diseases through droplet or air-borne transmission
- Hazardous chemical exposure
- Radiation exposure
- Environmental hazards, including slippery floors and electrical hazards
- Physical injuries, including back injuries
- Psychosocial hazards
- Offensive, inappropriate, or dangerous conduct by patients or clients, including violence, harassment, and sexual harassment

These risks can lead to serious complications, trauma, bodily injury or death.

SPECIAL NOTICE REGARDING COVID-19

COVID-19, the disease caused by the novel coronavirus, is a highly contagious disease that causes symptoms that can range from mild (or no) symptoms to severe illness. COVID-19 can cause severe and lasting health complications, including death. Everyone is at risk of COVID-19. There is currently no vaccine to prevent COVID-19.

Although anyone who contracts COVID-19 may experience severe complications, the CDC has found that individuals with certain underlying health conditions are at higher risk of developing severe complications from COVID-19. These medical conditions include: chronic lung disease, asthma, conditions that cause a person to be immunocompromised, obesity, diabetes, chronic kidney disease and liver disease. In addition, the CDC has found that individuals over age 650 are at a significantly increased risk for developing severe complications, including death, from COVID-19.

Current guidance from the CDC suggests that COVID-19 is believed to spread primarily spread by coming into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 and may also spread by touching a surface or object that has the virus on it, and then touching one's mouth, nose or eyes. In making your decision to participate in clinical experiences you should familiarize yourself with the CDC's guidance and other reliable sources of information about how the virus is spread such as the World Health Organization, the Food and Drug Administration and the National Institute of Health.

Much remains unknown about COVID-19. Further research may reveal additional information regarding the disease, including how it spreads and what health complications, including long-term complications, can result from contracting it.

Participating in clinical experiences, even when wearing recommended PPE, may increase the risk of contracting COVID-19, and these risks cannot be eliminated.

I acknowledge and fully assume the risk of illness or death related to COVID-19 arising from my participation in Caldwell University clinical experiences and hereby RELEASE, WAIVE, DISCHARGE, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE (on behalf of myself and any minor children for whom I have the capacity to contract) Caldwell University and its officers, directors, agents, employees and assigns from any liability related to COVID-19 which might occur as a result my participation in Caldwell University lab and clinical experiences.

I HAVE READ THIS ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY POLICY, FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS TERMS, UNDERSTAND THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT, AND SIGN IT FREELY AND VOLUNTARILY WITHOUT ANY COERCION OR INDUCEMENT.

Name

Date