

YALE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

YSM OBSERVERSHIP POLICY

Observerships are periods of time of one or more days in which an individual who is not a Yale student attends patient care team rounds or observes communication with patients, physical examination, and/or procedures in the clinical setting. The observer has no direct communication or physical contact with patients.

Due to the impact on patient experience and Yale medical student education, Yale School of Medicine does not allow observerships within our clerkship, elective, or sub-internship settings.

Faculty may arrange with their department and Yale-New Haven Hospital (or other Yale clinical sites) for individuals to observe in other settings, accompanied by designated faculty members or clinicians, with the department and clinical site being responsible for ensuring that immunizations, infection control, HIPAA training, background checks, and any other site requirements are satisfied. These observers are not covered by YSM malpractice and cannot receive University or student ID's for this purpose. Such observations are generally limited to 5 days.

Individuals requesting clinical experiences within our elective and sub-internship settings and teams must apply for an approved clinical rotation through the Office of International Medical Student Education (if attending a medical school outside of the US) or the Office of Student Affairs (if attending a medical school in the US).