Supervision of Athletic Training Students; what will Enhance their Transition into the School Employment Setting?

Andy Paulin, ATC
Mt. San Antonio College (Retired)
Preceptor: CSULB, CSUF, Chapman U., APU, Univ. of La Verne, CBU
Purpose:

- Knowledge
- Competency
- Performance Gaps in A.T.’s Practice
- Applying CAATE 2020 Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs.
Purpose: Knowledge:

- Preceptor was directly involved in the clinical education of athletic training students from six CAATE approved program and will share instructional skills that assist ATS into successful transition to a school- athletic employment setting.

*Standard 15*: A program’s athletic training clinical experiences and supplemental clinical experiences provide a logical progression of increasingly complex and autonomous patient-care and client-care experiences.
Purpose: Competency:

- Utilizing the Athletic Training Programs’ recommendations for the Preceptors, Athletic Training Students (ATS) will gain employment setting skills that should transition the ATS into an effective Young Professional in their entry-level school-athletic setting.

*Standard 15: Describe how athletic training and/or supplemental clinical experiences are designed to progress the student toward autonomous practice.*
Purpose: Performance Gaps in A.T.’s Practice

- Failure to outline clear expectations.
- Using students as a “Labor Force”.
- Failure to actively involve the ATS in patient care because it is the “Preceptors’ Job”.

*Standard 29:* The program ensures that each student is oriented to the policies and procedures of their clinical site.
Applications for other Athletic Trainer Supervisors (not preceptors)

- New A.T. staff employees
- Work Study students.
- Student Volunteers.
- Credentialed/Licensed Volunteers from other allied health care professions.
- Students from other allied health care professions.
Step #1: Communication!!!

- Pre-Clinical Site Meeting = Expectations!
- Mandatory A.T. Staff ORIENTATION MEETING!
- Hands-On Workshops prior to start of sports’ season (Equipment Intensive!).
- Hard copy Mailboxes with Weekly Criteria.
- Hard copy Timecards.
- Posted Athletic Schedule.
- Posted Athletic Trainer staff schedule.
- Periodic Evaluations i.e. ATrack, E-Value, on-line, bi-weekly.

Standard 29: Describe the process used to ensure that each student is oriented to a clinical site’s policies and procedures at the start of the experience before patient/client encounters. • Describe how a preceptor is educated on the information that must be included during an orientation.
STEP #2

Assign ATS responsibility for the daily, routine operation of the A.T. Clinic

- Opening Tasks
- Practice Gear Set up
- Daily documentation i.e. Injury Reports, Tx. Logs, SOAP notes, Rehab. Documentation.

- On-Going Tasks incl. A.T. Clinic maintenance, repairs, supply inventory.
- Packing for competition dates.
- Closing Tasks especially maintenance.

*Standard 91: Develop, implement, and revise policies and procedures to guide the daily operation of athletic training services.*

*Standard 46: Describe how the program ensures that preceptors function to supervise, instruct, and mentor students during clinical education.*
STEP #3

- ATS is responsible for construction of the EAP inside the A.T. Clinic, especially as staff changes hourly.
- Includes other venues when other ATC staff is absent ("on-call for tennis practice")
- Ambulance Duty = strictly observation.

**Standard 61:** Practice in collaboration with other health care and wellness professionals.

**Standard 92:** Develop, implement, and revise policies that pertain to prevention, preparedness, and response to medical emergencies and other critical incidents.
Standard 64: Apply contemporary principles and practices of health informatics to the administration and delivery of patient care, including (but not limited to) the ability to do the following:
- Use data to drive informed decisions
- Search, retrieve, and use information derived from online databases and internal databases for clinical decision support

Standard 89: Use a comprehensive patient-file management system (including diagnostic and procedural codes) for documentation of patient care and health insurance management.

- ATS & Athlete complete the Insurance Claim form, HIPAA form, physician referral, map to medical services.
- ATS has to help solve: “I don’t know if I have insurance”, “I don’t have a ride”.
- ATS follows up with athlete upon return from medical referral.
- Observation: when athlete no-shows, ATS is upset because no dx.

STEP #4
- Last Athletic Competition = “Final Exam” i.e. you are the Head ATC!
- Notified back on day #1.
- Usually paired with a colleague.
- Excellent preparation to be a “lead student”.
- Clearly demonstrates how much they have been involved during their site rotation.
- Renewing the skills of landline telephone operation & letter writing.

Tasks include:
- Pre & post game meetings
- planning the weeks’ practice field gear & staff, who is packing for competition, who is on the px field.
- Daily Coaches’ reports.
- Competition day assignments, gear preparation & set up.
- Working with the Visiting Medical staff.

**Standard 92:** Develop, implement, and revise policies that pertain to prevention, preparedness, and response to medical emergencies and other critical incidents.

**Standard 70:** Evaluate and manage patients with acute conditions, including triaging conditions that are life threatening or otherwise emergent.

**STEP #5**
Summary:

- Excellent possibility that their first employment opportunity will be in a school athletic setting.
- Excellent possibility they will be working alone without ATC co-workers or ATP ATS.
- Preceptors need to provide the ATS with as many critical thinking skills as possible to handle expected & unique health care concerns.

Job Settings

PERCENTAGE of ALL ATs

- 19% College/University
- 18% Secondary Schools
- 17% Clinic and Hospital
- 2% Professional Sports
- 2% Emerging Settings
- Performing Arts
- Public Safety
- Military
- Occupational Health
- 27% Students

https://www.nata.org/about/athletic-training/job-settings
Please Take Back With You:

COE = Communication, Orientation, Expectations.
Hold the student accountable for the daily, routine tasks.
Submerge the student in the Preceptors daily workload.
Thank you for your attention!

QUESTIONS?

Andy Paulin,
ATC
(909)214-8281
paulinfamily4@verizon.org.
REFERENCES

- Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education 2020 Standards for Accreditation of Professional Athletic Training Programs Master’s Degree Programs Adoption date: January 9, 2018 Effective date: July 1, 2020

REFERENCES

• Athletic Training Preceptors' Perceived Learning Needs Regarding Preceptor Development