

Paid models for physical exam and ultrasound education at Yale School of Medicine

Purpose and background

Teaching the physical exam (PE) and point of care ultrasound (POCUS) are essential elements of medical education. Formerly, this teaching relied heavily on peer examination, in which students would learn the foundational skills of examination and ultrasound by examining each other. There is a growing voice amongst students that they are uncomfortable with this approach and that discomfort negatively impacts learning within the traditional structure of PE and POCUS teaching. Thus, having a reliable cohort of non-peer models for PE and POCUS is a necessary next step to ensuring that Yale Medical Students are provided the highest standard of PE and POCUS education.

Job Description: Paid Models for PE and POCUS Education

Paid models for PE and POCUS education require no formal training and are not expected to have a medical background. They do need to be willing to have a physical examination or ultrasound performed on them by multiple learners of different genders for educational purposes. Examination will be limited to non-sensitive areas and will not include direct examination of the breast, genitals, or buttocks. Examination may include the head, neck, back, chest, abdominal, inguinal region, legs, and feet.

Paid models will be expected to wear clothing appropriate for the area being examined. For the upper body, this would include a sports bra for females and shirtless for males. For the lower body, this would include wearing shorts. As appropriate use of draping is part of learning PE and POCUS skills, paid models can expect that drapes will be used to minimize exposure as much as possible.

Safety

Safety measures will be in place to limit the possible transmission of infection to the paid model, the learners, and clinical skills faculty. Groups size will be limited according to University policy and social distancing measures will be in use to the highest degree possible. Personal protective equipment (PPE) will be provided for the paid model and all other participants during the learning session according to Yale University standards. For the duration that mask and eye protection wearing is expected by University safety standards, paid models will wear those during all learning sessions. The mask may be removed on the paid model briefly for the examination of mouth and nose when those skills are being taught. Hand hygiene, cleaning of medical equipment, and disinfecting of surfaces between during teaching sessions will be performed to University standards. Paid volunteers, learners, and clinical skills faculty that have symptoms of infection at the time of the learning session will not be allowed to participate in person.

In the event that a previously unknown abnormal finding is identified on the paid model during the educational session, clinical skills faculty will address this using existing protocols (see: [Guidelines and Procedures for the Examination of Students for the Purpose of Teaching and Learning Clinical Medicine](#)).

Supervision

Paid models will be utilized during structured teaching sessions within the Clinical Skills Course. These sessions occur in groups (large and small) and are supervised by Clinical Skills Faculty both onsite and remotely.

Source of Paid Models for PE and POCUS Education

Paid models can be any interested student from any of Yale's undergraduate or graduate programs.