

Student Services Manual (SSM)

SSM 1201–04: Student-Athlete Medical Care

Effective: 8/1/1993

Revised: 8/2/2024

Purpose

To provide the best medical care within available resources for members of the intercollegiate athletic teams

Sources

Federal and state laws regarding medical practice, prescription of pharmaceuticals, and patient rights

National Collegiate Athletic Association

Big 12 Conference

ASU Health Services

Sun Devil Athletics

Policy

Eligibility for Professional Services

ASU Health Services (ASUHS) provides services to all students on any athletic team sanctioned by Sun Devil Athletics (SDA) as an intercollegiate sport and to post-eligibility student-athletes who are eligible for continued treatment for an injury or illness documented at the time of their exit physical.

Each semester, SDA must provide the team physicians and ASUHS with a revised list of student-athletes who are authorized to receive SDA medical benefits.

Exceptions

Any non-ASU student-athlete participating in National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) competition who sustains an injury or illness while visiting ASU for competition may receive treatment within the scope of medical services available and will be responsible for the cost of care.

Upon completion of a student-athlete's eligibility or cessation of participation as a student-athlete, students are not eligible for services for any injury or illness incurred as a result of participating in intercollegiate sports, unless:

1. the illness or injury was reported at the time of the injury, documented in the medical record of the athlete, and reported at the time of the athlete's exit physical examination

and
2. Big 12 Conference rules specify continued medical care for a period of time.

Student-athletes are required to see the team physician for an exit physical within 1 month after the completion of their academic eligibility or the cessation of their participation as student-athletes. During the exit physical, the team physician will ensure complete documentation of any and all athletic injuries and illnesses sustained due to participation

as a student-athlete. The team physician will outline a treatment plan for any injuries and illnesses that require further treatment.

Practice players who are ASU students are eligible to receive treatment from the team physicians and athletic training staff consistent with eligibility as an ASU student.

Authorization and Scope for Medical Services

Medical services provided for all student-athletes may include, but are not limited to, medical evaluation and treatment, psychological and psychiatric services and referral, laboratory tests, diagnostic radiology procedures, supplies and materials normally furnished by ASUHS in the provision of medical care to the general student body, physical therapy referral, consultative services, outpatient surgery, coordination of inpatient care, rehabilitation services, and event coverage consistent with established medical need and Big 12 Conference policies. All diagnostic or monitoring studies not done by ASUHS must be authorized by a team physician. The team physician or designer dispenses all prescriptions at the ASUHS Carson location or at designated pharmacies.

Athletic Trainer Referral to Team Physician

1. Athletic trainers provide student-athlete evaluations in the case of injury or illness occurring during practice or competition on the ASU campus, in-state or out-of-state.
2. The athletic trainer determines the urgency and necessity of obtaining additional consultation from the team physician(s).

Referrals for Additional Medical Services Outside of ASU

All medical services provided to student-athletes must be coordinated by the team physician if any part of the service is paid for or provided on behalf of ASU. Consultant referrals will be made primarily to specific providers identified by ASUHS.

No coach or other SDA employee may refer a student-athlete to a health professional; only the team physician or certified athletic trainer in consultation with the team physician may do so.

Medical Clearance for Athletic Participation

All student-athletes who are members of a sanctioned SDA team must be medically authorized to participate and have passed an athletic physical examination by an ASUHS employed or contracted provider. Student-athletes must complete and sign health history, insurance information, medical release, drug policy statement, sports medicine liability forms, and other documents as identified by SDA and ASUHS.

General Participation

Team physicians may delegate evaluations of athletically-related injury or illness to allied health care professionals through established protocols, written in consultation with these professionals.

Special Conditions

1. "Pre-existing conditions"—A condition that has been identified at the preparticipation medical evaluation to exist or have existed by medical history or direct physical examination or testing.
2. "Athletically-related illness or injury"—The head team physician or designee is responsible for the medical determination of an athletically-related illness or injury.

Participation Denial

An athlete may not participate in practice or competition until given clearance by a team physician.

Appeals

Appeals for decisions made regarding pre-existing conditions, participation denial, or an athletically-related illness or injury may be made according to the appeals process.

Patient Confidentiality and Medical Records

The medical record for service provided at ASU is the property of ASUHS, and the information contained in the medical record is the property of the student-athlete.

ASUHS is responsible for the maintenance and management of the medical records, consistent with applicable federal and state law and Big 12 Conference rules.

The team physician, head athletic trainer, or head coach may not release general medical information regarding injury or illness of a student-athlete through SDA's media relations office unless a Medical Release to the Media form covering the information to be released has been signed by the student-athlete.

Compliance with NCAA Regulations

The team physicians, designees, and allied health care professionals are responsible for knowing and complying with all applicable NCAA rules and regulations.

SDA will provide an NCAA regulations manual to team physicians on a yearly basis.

SDA's compliance coordinator, in consultation with the faculty athletic representative, is available to advise team physicians, designees, or allied health care professionals on interpretations and compliance with these rules and regulations. The team physicians, designees, or allied health care professionals are responsible for actively seeking an official interpretation of NCAA rules from the SDA compliance coordinator in consultation with the faculty athletic representative when uncertain of a rule.

Supervision and Quality Assurance

The Associate Vice President, Health and Counseling Services is ultimately responsible for the quality of medical services provided to student-athletes and for supervising the services of team physicians whether directly employed or contracted.

Quality assurance audits are performed periodically on the medical services performed by the team physicians, consultants, and allied health care professionals. These audits may include direct services, medication usage, medical records, and cost-benefit studies.

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Preference of Service

A student-athlete has the right to change physicians, to refuse to see a particular physician, and to refuse treatment. The team physician and the certified athletic trainer must be informed of this decision. SDA is under no obligation, however, to pay for services rendered by non-ASUHS approved clinicians unless the service would ordinarily be covered by SDA and the severity of the injury or illness required immediate treatment by a non-ASUHS clinician. However, if the athlete is treated by a non-ASUHS clinician in these circumstances, the team physician or head athletic trainer must be notified before the athlete participates in the next practice or competition.

Appeals Process

An athlete, physician, consultant, or health professional may appeal any of the following to the executive committee of the Sports Medicine Section of SDA for any of the following after all other appeals have been exhausted:

1. payment denial for medical services
2. "pre-existing condition" determination
3. participation denial (temporary or permanent)
4. "athletically-related illness" determination or denial

and

5. management of medical condition.

The executive committee of the Sports Medicine Section of SDA is composed of the following:

1. Associate Vice President, Health and Counseling Services
2. Designated Associate Athletics Director
3. Head team physician
4. Head athletics trainer
5. Compliance coordinator

This committee may call in others to advise them or add information in order to reach a decision. Decisions may be appealed to the Vice President of Student Services and the Athletics Director whose joint decision shall be binding.