

Course: Ambulatory Care Medicine (IMED 0563)

Department: Internal Medicine
Faculty Coordinator: Hari Raja, M.D.
Hospital: Parkland Health & Hospital System, Dallas VA Medical Center, Baylor University Medical Center, other various sites
Periods Offered: Period 1-5 and 8-10, Periods 11&12 for MS3 and visiting students
Length: 4 weeks
Max no. of students: 10
First Day Contact: Hari Raja, M.D.
First Day Time: To be designated
First Day Place: To be designated
Prerequisites: Passing grade in 3rd year Internal Medicine Clerkship

I. Course Description

Students will spend one month in various outpatient Internal Medicine clinics to learn ambulatory medicine and also attend didactic sessions twice weekly. Except in Period one, which has no palliative care option, up to 6 students may be assigned to Palliative Care Clinic and inpatient consultation for two weeks followed by 2 weeks of outpatient clinics as described above.

II. Course Goals and Objectives (based on ACGME competencies for resident education and modified for medical student education)

Patient Care:

Students, together with supervising faculty, must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Objectives:

Students are expected to:

- 1.) Interview the patients and obtain the vital information for patient care. Example: History, physical examination, and relevant lab data when evaluating a patient with diabetes.

2.) Interpret the data and discuss the plan with the patient and family. Example: Discuss with the patient about the possibility of complications from diabetes.

3.) Promote general health maintenance and disease prevention. Example: Check the lipids in a patient with diabetes and recommend preventative measures such as smoking cessation, weight loss, etc.

4.) Consult with specialty services to coordinate care. Example: Refer to ophthalmology for yearly eye exam.

Medical Knowledge:

Students should demonstrate knowledge about a wide variety of medical illnesses and apply this to patient care.

Objectives:

Students are expected to:

1.) Provide the differential diagnosis of a chief complaint and provide a treatment plan to investigate the causes. Example: Discuss the causes of shortness of breath and plan a strategy for work-up.

2.) Apply the current clinical knowledge to arrive at a unifying diagnosis with the attending physician and treat the patient. Example: Obtain a CXR on the patient and evaluate for pneumonia.

3.) Learn preventative health medicine. Example: Learn nutrition counseling for the obese patient.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:

Students should be able to assimilate scientific evidence and improve patient care.

Objectives:

- 1.) Learn how to perform work-ups in the outpatient setting. Example: Evaluate a patient with headaches and initiate the work-up.
- 2.) Follow the patient's results and treat any deficiencies. Example: Evaluate the patient's MRI results during follow-up.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills:

Students must be able to communicate effectively between the attending physician, patients, and their families.

Objectives:

Students are expected to:

- 1.) Communicate with the patient to explain the diagnosis and treatment plan. Example: Explain the cause of abdominal pain and the planned work-up.
- 2.) Discuss with the attending the plan and history/physical. Example: Present the history and physical to the attending in the clinic.
- 3.) Work with ancillary staff to provide care. Example: Communicate with nurses any changes in the plan.

Professionalism:

Students should perform to their best ability and adhere to ethical behavior while taking care of the patients.

Objectives:

- 1.) Adhere to the principles of informed consent and patient confidentiality. Example: Discuss the patient's care only with the patient and attending physician.
- 2.) Respect the patient's cultural background in taking care of them. Example: Patient who is a Jehovah's witness refusing blood transfusions.

III. Methods of Instruction (Didactic & clinical)

A.) Didactic

The students will attend lectures on Monday and Thursday mornings with topics covering nutrition, preventative medicine, outpatient infections, etc. They are also expected to work on 2 nutrition cases and provide the answers by the 3rd week of the rotation. They are also required to attend the Healthcare Financing Module.

B.) Clinical

The students will attend 7 half-days of clinics at Parkland, VA, private practice sites, HIV clinic, etc.

IV. Method of evaluation of students

The student may receive a pass/fail and will be evaluated by the attending physician on the service.

UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES MAY STUDENTS TAKE TIME FROM THIS ROTATION FOR INTERNSHIP INTERVIEWS.