



## **INTERNAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIP**

### **EDUCATIONAL COURSE OBJECTIVES**

At the end of the 10-week Internal Medicine Clerkship, medical students will be able to:

1. Interview patients collecting pertinent data concerning the patients' presenting problems
2. Perform a complete or focused physical examination as appropriate and distinguish normal from abnormal findings
3. Synthesize information to develop a reasonable differential diagnosis and be prepared to present to preceptor
4. Following an assessment of all assigned patients, students will describe the chief problems and a plan for treatment.
5. Prepare a complete H & P for a new patient admitted to the service and chart the results.
6. Periodically re-evaluate patients' status including interpretation of new history and physical exam findings
7. Accurately prepare case reports based on patient encounters and research into the primary diagnoses
8. Use and interpret laboratory and radiographic tests used in diagnosing common disease
9. Assess appropriate pain management and make recommendations for changes in treatment
10. Recognize and manage situations related to common diseases that are potential emergencies
11. Identify ethical problems which arise in patient treatment and care
12. Use ethical principles to reach a resolution in a presented case
13. Apply knowledge of ethical principles to prepare a Clinical Ethics Case Consultation.
14. Recognize how race, culture and/or spirituality may influence choice of treatment and health care decision-making.
15. All students participating on this clerkship will meet or exceed the institutional standards for professional behaviors as evidenced by
  - adhering to the dress code consistent with clerkship standards.
  - being punctual for all educational experiences (i.e. exams, clinics, rounds, small group sessions, appointments at the clinical skills center).
  - fulfilling all educational assignments and responsibilities on time.
  - displaying honesty in all interactions and situations.
  - contributing to an atmosphere conducive to learning and is committed to advance scientific knowledge.
  - establishing and maintaining appropriate boundaries in all learning situations

- using professional language being mindful of the environment.
- establishing effective rapport.
- being respectful at all times of all parties involved.
- resolving conflict in a manner that respects the dignity of every person involved.
- respecting the diversity of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, disability and socioeconomic status.
- exhibiting humanism in all interactions.
- protecting patient confidentiality.
- being aware of and adapting to differences in individual patients including those related to culture and medical literacy
- recognizing personal limitations and seeking appropriate help.
- accepting constructive feedback and making changes accordingly.
- exhibiting independent and self-directed learning.

### **Required Clinical Experiences:**

To help learners achieve these educational course objectives, requirements for both patient type (diagnostic category) and students' level of involvement have been established. These clinical experiences will be complimented by assigned readings and didactic sessions related to diagnosis and management of patients in each category.

#### *Patient type:*

During this clerkship, students are required to recognize symptoms that may signify disease in the following categories, distinguish normal from abnormal findings on physical exam, formulate a differential diagnosis based on signs and symptoms, use and interpret common tests used in diagnosing disease and develop a systematic approach to management of these common diseases. This provides the core of the internal medicine experience. All categories are required and considered essential as part of an introduction to internal medicine. The minimum number of patients in each category is defined.

Patients are seen in both inpatient and ambulatory settings. All students complete 6 weeks of inpatient service. Students are involved with patients admitted to acute care inpatient services with a wide variety of medical diagnoses. Students are required to evaluate **at least** 16 patients over the 6 week experience. In addition to participating in inpatient services, students spend 3 weeks in a variety of ambulatory sites. During this experience, students work with preceptors who care for a wide spectrum of patients with medical diagnoses including both new patients and patients returning for follow up care. Students are required to assess **at least** 8 patients during this experience. Students must log all patient encounters and logs will be monitored to ensure adequate experience.

<b>Diagnostic category</b>	<b>Minimum Number of Patients to be seen</b>	<b>Comments/Explanation</b>
Cardiovascular Disease	2	Includes CHF, ischemic heart disease, arrhythmia, hypertension, or peripheral vascular disease
Endocrinologic Disease	2	Includes hyper/hypothyroidism, diabetes mellitus, or adrenal disease
Pulmonary Disease	2	Includes COPD, asthma, interstitial lung disease
Hematologic/Oncologic Disease	2	Includes anemia, hematologic malignancy, or solid organ malignancy
Infectious Disease	2	Includes sepsis, endocarditis pneumonia, meningitis, urinary infection or HIV
Rheumatologic Disease	2	Included rheumatoid arthritis, degenerative arthritis, or SLE
Gastroenterologic Disease	2	Include peptic ulcer disease, esophagitis, cirrhosis or inflammatory bowel disease
Nephrologic Disease	2	Includes renal failure, electrolyte disturbance, acid-based disturbance, nephritic syndrome, or renal calculi

*Level of involvement:*

In addition to seeing patients in the diagnostic categories listed above, how the students are engaged in the encounter is also an important factor in helping students achieve the objectives for this clerkship. Level of involvement is likely to include various types of interaction with patients and the health care team and should be monitored to ensure a complete experience. Levels of involvement will be indicated for logged patient encounters. The logs will be reviewed mid-block to ensure that students have a range of experiences in both in-patient and/or out-patient settings.

Level of involvement during patient encounters will be logged using the following categories:

- Independently gathered history information\*
- Observed patient interview
- Independently performed physical exam\*
- Observed physical exam
- Presented patient case\*
- Wrote patient note\*
- Opportunity to discuss laboratory or test results\*
- Opportunity to offer and discuss differential diagnosis\*

- Opportunity to offer and discuss management options\*
- Observed procedure
- Performed procedure (not required for this clerkship)

For the levels of involvement marked with an \*, the following numbers are considered to be the **minimum** expected for this clerkship and should be reflected in the logs:

Activity:	Elicit History information	Perform Physical Exam	Present patient	Recommend or discuss dx, tx, management	Interpret tests	Write notes
Frequency:	24	24	24	24	24	16

### Other Clerkship Experiences:

In addition to required clinical experiences (patient type and level of involvement), successful completion of the clerkship requires student participation in a variety of additional experiences. These experiences are coordinated through the Department of Internal Medicine and include lecture/discussions and presentations.

Students will be required to present a patient case for discussion and explain the pathophysiology and plans for treatment.

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