

## YEARS 1 & 2 ELECTIVE COURSE

TITLE: Introduction to Emergency Medicine

COURSE NO.: SOMN 613

DEPARTMENT: Emergency Medicine

DURATION: 2 separate shifts, 4 hours each in the Emergency department

DIRECTOR: Shaza Aouthmany, MD

SEMESTERS AVAILABLE: Fall, Spring and Summer

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 4

LOCATION: UTMC Emergency Department and Health Ed. Building

COORDINATOR: Designated Emergency Medicine club officer

FACULTY PARTICIPANTS: ED Departmental Staff and other Faculty

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Medical students interested in Emergency Medicine will select and schedule times to shadow a member of the Emergency Department faculty. A schedule of times during the week when ED attendings and/or residents are available will be provided. Students will arrange to spend 2 separate 4-hour blocks of time with an Emergency Department physician (each of the 4 hour blocks may be spent with different physicians). The student's main role will be to observe the Emergency Department physician, but 2<sup>nd</sup> year students, at the physician's discretion and under his/her supervision, may interview patients and assist the physician during physical exams. 1<sup>st</sup> year medical students if they have had prior clinical experience and feel confident in their interviewing skills may at the physician's discretion assist in the patient interview and exam. One student officer, designated by the president of the Emergency Medicine Club, will communicate with the course director/coordinator in keeping the number of students participating in the elective at a level that is satisfactory to the director/coordinator. Also, students will be required to attend 2 out of 3 lectures and skill labs sponsored by the Emergency Medicine Club. Each of the 3 lectures will address the pathophysiology, presentation and emergency management of an acute, medical illness (such as, but not limited to, anaphylactic shock, myocardial infarction and asthma/respiratory distress) commonly seen in most emergency departments. Each lecture will be concluded with a relevant skills lab (such as, but not limited to, intravenous cannulation, EKG reading and intubation/oxygen therapy) that teaches the student basic skills needed as an emergency department physician.

### EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES:

- The student will observe the daily history taking, physical examination, diagnosis and treatment processes in the Emergency Department.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> year students will have an opportunity to practice history taking and learn how to conduct physical exams in an acute setting. (Note: 1<sup>st</sup> year students may participate in the interview and exam also, but only at the physician's discretion.)

- The student will gain exposure to patient care and development of treatment plans in the emergency department.
- The student will appreciate the utilization of pharmacology and lifesaving interventions used to treat acute, medical emergencies in the ED.
- The student will gain an understanding of the pathophysiology, presentation, emergency medical management of medical illnesses such as anaphylactic shock, myocardial infarction and asthma/respiratory distress.
- The student will learn the basic skills such as intravenous cannulation, EKG reading and intubation with oxygen therapy.

**METHODS OF TEACHING:** The student will interact with physician(s) as well as residents and clinical clerks in the UPMC Emergency Department. Students may be allowed to take patient histories or write S.O.A.P notes, and to assist in the performance of the physical exam if the physician feels the student is sufficiently trained. Various UPMC faculty physicians will give three lectures as mentioned above. Each lecture will end with a lab that teaches a relevant skill needed in the Emergency Department.

**METHODS OF STUDENT EVALUATION:** Participating faculty will evaluate students on the basis of attendance and interest, may provide feedback to the student on history taking, physical examination skills and the student's S.O.A.P notes. Students will also complete a one page, anonymous patient case report and/or reflection upon the medical or ethical lessons they may have learned in the Emergency Department. The course director will evaluate the assignment on a pass/fail scale. For the required lectures, the student will be evaluated on attendance and the completion of a 5 question quiz that will be given at the end of each lecture. The quiz will not be graded and the correct answers will be given after every quiz was handed in. An overall PASS for this course depends upon receiving a passing patient case report/reflection, documented attendance of at least 2 EM lectures/skill labs and completion of a quiz at each lecture attended.

**LINKAGE TO EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:** The learning objectives of this elective course are directly related to the UPMC Core Competencies for graduation. All aspects of the patient encounter will be utilized to gain an appreciation of the skills necessary to diagnosis and manage acute, medical emergencies. Patient interaction and assessment skills will be strengthened. Knowledge about common acute, medical emergency illnesses will be introduced.

**ELECTIVE EVALUATION:** Upon the completion of the ED experience, the student will be better at performing patient histories and physical exams and will have a broader knowledge of emergency medical illness and injuries. In addition, the student will have completed a one page (anonymous) case report or essay to be evaluated by the course coordinator, attended 2 out of the 3 Emergency Medical Lectures and skill labs and successfully completed and handed in the quiz at each lecture attended.

**PREREQUISITES:** First or Second year medical students of UPMC who are in good academic standing are eligible to participate, however all students interested in the elective should attend the Emergency Medicine Elective Orientation, organized by the Emergency Medicine Club, conducted in the fall by the course director and club officers. 1<sup>st</sup> and Second year medical students may conduct medical interviews and participate in the physical exam at the discretion of the emergency department physician.