

2022-2023 Family Medicine Clerkship

2.1 CLERKSHIP COMPETENCIES

PATIENT CARE

Students must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Students are expected to:

- 1.) Communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with patients and their families.
- 2.) Gather essential and accurate information about their patients.
 - a.) Perform problem-focused, problem-oriented histories and physical exams appropriate for outpatient care
 - b.) Demonstrate common ambulatory procedural skills, incorporating knowledge of indications and potential complications of the procedure
 - c.) Record and present patient encounters in succinct problem-oriented medical record format.
- 3.) Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence and clinical judgment.
- 4.) Develop patient management plans.
 - a.) Demonstrate an understanding of continuous, coordinated and comprehensive care of families, longitudinal care
 - b.) Utilize a Biopsychosocial approach in the delivery of health care.
 - c.) Demonstrate understanding of the role of family and community in primary care.
- 5.) Counsel and educate patients and their families providing basic patient education for problems common in family medicine.
- 6.) Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education
- 7.) Provide health care services aimed at promoting health
 - a.) Learn to apply the principles of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention.
 - b.) Demonstrate awareness of the importance of nutrition, sleep, fitness and other lifestyle behaviors in promoting health.
 - c.) Demonstrate awareness of the importance of occupational factors in health promotion and disease prevention.
- 8.) Collaborate with health care professionals, including those from other disciplines, to provide patient centered and preventive services across the lifespan.

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Students must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical and cognate (e.g. epidemiological and social-behavioral) sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care.

- 1.) Demonstrate an investigatory and analytical thinking approach to clinical situations.
- 2.) Know and apply the basic and clinically supportive sciences.
 - a.) Demonstrate knowledge to diagnose and treat common problems encountered by family physicians
 - b.) Demonstrate understanding of end-of-life and palliative care issues.
 - c.) Demonstrate ability to develop, prioritize and justify differential diagnoses for patients seen.

PRACTICE BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Students must be able to investigate/evaluate their approach to patient care, appraise/assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their approach to patient care. Students are expected to:

- 1.) Analyze practice experience and think about practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology
- 2.) Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
- 3.) Obtain and use information about their own population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn.
- 4.) Apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness.
- 5.) Use information technology to manage information, access on-line information and support their own education.
- 6.) Facilitate learning of other students and other health care professionals.

INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Students must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their families and professional associates. Students are expected to:

- 1.) Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients.
- 2.) Use effective listening skills and elicit and provide information using effective nonverbal, explanatory, questioning and writing skills.
- 3.) Work effectively with others as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group.

PROFESSIONALISM

Students must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. Students are expected to:

- 1.) Demonstrate respect, compassion and integrity; a responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supersedes self-interest; accountability to patients, society and the profession; and a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development.
- 2.) Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, business practices.
- 3.) Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities.

SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

Students must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care and the ability to effectively call on system resources to provide care that is of optimal value. Students are expected to:

- Understand how their patient care and other professional practices affect other health care professionals, the health care organization and the larger society and how these elements of the system affect their own practice.
- Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resources.
- Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities.

2.2 KEY DEFINITIONS

You should be familiar with certain terms that are important in understanding family medicine. Some of these terms may be unfamiliar to you as used within the context of primary care. Although experts disagree on the exact meaning of the terms listed below, we believe the following definitions will be helpful to you.

- Health--A state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity (WHO, 1986); The ability of a system to respond adaptively to a wide variety of environmental challenges (Brody and Sobel, 1981).

- Health promotion--Activities which have as their goal developing human resources and behaviors that maintain or enhance well-being (Stanhope and Lancaster, 1988).
- Primary care--A type of medical care delivery which emphasizes first contact care and assumes ongoing responsibility for the patient in both health maintenance and therapy of illness. It is personal care involving a unique interaction and communication between the patient and the physician. It is comprehensive in scope and includes the overall coordination of the care of the patient's health problems, be they biological, behavioral or social. The appropriate use of consultants and community resources is an important part of effective primary care (American Academy of Family Physicians [AAFP], 1975).
- Family Medicine--The medical specialty which provides continuing and comprehensive health care for the individual and the family. It is the specialty in breadth which integrates the biological, clinical and behavioral sciences. The scope of Family Medicine encompasses all ages, both sexes, each organ system and every disease entity. Family Medicine is the continuing and current expression of the historical medical practitioner and is uniquely defined within the context of the family (AAFP, 1986).
- Family--A group of individuals sharing emotional bonds, a history and a future. This group accomplishes special functions or tasks, including provision for security and survival, socialization of children, and support for individual growth.