

Core Clinical Clerkships: Inpatient Internal Medicine

The goal for students on the required Clerkship in Medicine is the attainment of an understanding of adult patient illnesses and the non-surgical treatment of those illnesses. The emphasis of the clerkship is directed toward the integration of basic science with clinical skills. An important component of the student's approach to the patient is an awareness of the patient as an individual in an unfamiliar and stressful setting. Specific objectives that the students need to obtain include skill in history taking, physical examination, written and oral case presentation, clinical judgment and establishing priorities. Specific knowledge objectives regarding common medical illnesses, and medical ethics, are outlined for the students. Specific attitudinal objectives involving health care team integration, patient and paramedical rapport, and humanism are also outlined to the students. These objectives are given to the students on the first day of the course along with specific case based learning objectives.

Skills

1. Achieve proficiency in the following:
 - (a) obtaining the patient's history
 - (b) performing a full or directed physical examination
 - (c) writing up the data base in a problem-oriented format
 - (d) presenting cases
 - (e) performing basic diagnostic and therapeutic procedures
2. Gain experience in writing orders and problem-oriented progress notes.
3. Learn how to establish priorities in ordering diagnostic tests and to interpret laboratory data; consider cost-effectiveness in patient evaluation
4. Begin to develop judgment and decision-making skills
5. Ascertain patient's goals of the therapeutic encounter
6. Ascertain patient's understanding and compliance with medications
7. Begin to understand the basic concepts and dilemmas in medical ethics.

Knowledge

1. Develop familiarity with common medical illnesses. Develop the ability to construct an adequate differential diagnosis.
2. Build on previous knowledge of pathophysiology and begin to integrate basic sciences with clinical medicine by reading pertinent texts about the problems of each patient.

Attitudes

1. Become an integral part and enthusiastic member of the medical team by participating in ward activities and by contributing to discussions related to patient care.
2. Gain perspective regarding roles of various health care personnel in patient care.
3. Learn how to establish rapport with patients and paramedical personnel.
4. Begin to function as a physician by working with patients and accepting some responsibility for their care.
5. Begin to understand the humanistic side of medicine; treat and discuss patients in a concerned and compassionate manner. Begin furthering concepts in and around death and dying.