



Dalhousie University Gastroenterology Residency Training Objectives

Clinical Clerk (Med 3 & 4) Rotation Objectives (NHI Inpatient Consultation and VGH Hepatology Services)

Rotation Description

Welcome to the Division of Digestive Disease and Endoscopy. During your rotation with our division you will gain exposure to a wide variety of digestive diseases. The division is composed of a dynamic team of physicians, senior subspecialty residents and exceptional allied health providers. We provide care to patients presenting with both luminal and hepatobiliary disease. During this rotation you will be exposed to a large number of clinical presentations varying from acute emergency management of unstable patients to inpatient care of complex medical conditions. This rotation will be four weeks in duration and will serve to introduce you to the spectrum of gastrointestinal disease.

During your one-month rotation, you will be a member of the inpatient consultation service at the New Halifax Infirmary (NHI) site. During the rotation you will be directly supervised by an attending gastroenterologist and usually a senior gastroenterology subspecialty resident and a junior Internal Medicine resident. At the NHI, you will be responsible for assessing and reviewing inpatient and emergency room consultations with your team members. You will also be responsible for providing ongoing consultative follow up for these patients. To facilitate exposure to Hepatology, you will also be responsible for assessing and reviewing inpatient hepatology consultations with one of our three hepatologists. Whenever possible, you will have the opportunity to perform diagnostic and therapeutic paracentesis under supervision of either the senior GI subspecialty resident or the attending.

During rare rotations when multiple clinical clerks are assigned to gastroenterology, your rotation may be altered to include two weeks at the NHI site and two weeks as part of the Victoria General based Hepatology service. During your two weeks on the Hepatology Service you will work with our 3 hepatologists. You will assess patients admitted to hospital with advanced liver disease including those that are being evaluated for possible liver

transplant and attend outpatient hepatology clinics. Once weekly you will have the opportunity to perform diagnostic and therapeutic paracentesis under supervision in the GI clinic. You may also be asked to contribute to the VG Consult service during your rotation. This will consist of assessing and reviewing inpatients with an assigned staff member.

During your rotations in gastroenterology there are many opportunities to identify research projects and apply your management / supervisory skills. It is also an excellent opportunity to practice medicine in a multidisciplinary model.

Reviewed: Dr. S. Williams, May 2020

Medical Expert

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Demonstrate diagnostic and therapeutic skills to effectively and ethically manage a spectrum of patient care problems within the boundaries of Gastroenterology</p> <p>Access and apply relevant information and therapeutic options to clinical practice.</p> <p>Demonstrate effective consultation skills</p> <p>Demonstrate medical expertise in situations other than in direct patient care.</p>	<p>Elicit a history that is relevant, concise, accurate and appropriate to the patient's problems. Perform a physical exam that is relevant, appropriate and meets or exceeds standards specific to Gastroenterology</p> <p>Use appropriate selection of investigative or diagnostic tools in a cost-effective, ethical and useful manner. While collecting data by the three above means, demonstrate cognitive and process skills toward solving the individual patient's problem</p> <p>Demonstrate effective consultation skills in presenting well documented assessments and recommendations in written and/or verbal form in response to a request from another health care provider</p> <p>Demonstrate the attitudes and the skills necessary to retrieve and implement the information necessary to provide health care services to patients in meeting the needs and expectations of the community Access, retrieve, assist and apply relevant information of all kinds to problem-solving and introduce new therapeutic options to clinical practice</p> <p>Demonstrate insight into his/her own limitations of expertise by self-assessment.</p> <p>Specific learning objectives include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Proficiency in taking a focused history and physical examination pertinent to liver disease. 2. Attaining a thorough knowledge of signs and symptoms of urgent and emergent GI disease and ability to decide which patient needs urgent intervention. 3. Identification and management of decompensated liver 	<p>During this rotation the resident and/or clerk will be seeing patients in the emergency room, on wards in consultation, and during daily inpatient rounds. Thorough directed histories and appropriate physical examinations will be performed. Findings will be confirmed with both the attending physician and the senior gastroenterology resident.</p> <p>The assessment of patients with unstable gastroenterologic presentations or liver disease can be complex. The resident and/or clerk will have ample chance to learn and apply the most cost-effective and efficient way of evaluating these patients. The goal is that residents and/or clerks will develop a logical approach to evaluation and management of these patients through experience in the consultative and inpatient setting.</p> <p>A variety of problems will be referred to both services in the domains of acute, chronic, decompensated, metabolic, viral and drug-induced liver disease, acute and chronic gastrointestinal bleeding, inflammatory bowel disease, biliary disease and a variety of luminal complaints. In evaluating these patients, residents and/or clerks will refine techniques for transmitting information to referral sources in the manner of an expert and consultant, imparting knowledge to referring physicians that they can use to enhance their own evaluation skills.</p>

	<p>disease including: variceal hemorrhage, fluid and electrolyte abnormalities, encephalopathy, hepato-renal syndrome, and malnutrition.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Attaining a thorough understanding of the indications, interpretations, limitations, and complications of diagnostic and therapeutic GI tract procedures. 5. Attaining knowledge of gastrointestinal disease including epidemiology, pathophysiology, prognosis, and treatment of such conditions seen on an inpatient consultation service 6. Understand timing, indications and contraindications to liver transplantation. 7. Determine indications and performance of procedures such as diagnostic and large volume paracentesis 	
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Communicator

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Establish a therapeutic relationship with patients</p> <p>Elicit and synthesize relevant information from the patient, their family, and/or community about their problems</p> <p>Discuss appropriate information with patients, their families, and other health care providers that facilitates optimal health care of the patient.</p>	<p>Recognize that being a good communicator is an essential function of a physician and understand that good patient-physician communication can foster patient satisfaction and compliance as well as influence the manifestations and outcome of a patient's illness.</p> <p>Establish relationships with patients that are characterized by understanding, trust, respect, empathy and confidentiality Gather information not only about the disease but also the patient's beliefs, concerns and expectations about the illness, while considering the influence of factors such as the patient's age, gender, ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic background and spiritual values on that illness.</p> <p>Deliver information to patients and their families in a humane manner and in a way that it is understandable, encourages discussion and promotes patients' participation in decisions about their care to the degree that they wish.</p> <p>Understand and demonstrate the importance of cooperation and communication among health professionals involved in the care of individual patients such that the roles of these professionals are delineated and consistent messages are delivered to patients and their families.</p> <p>Demonstrate skills in working with others who present significant communication challenges such as anger or confusion, or an ethno-cultural background different from the physician's own.</p>	<p>Communication regarding diagnosis, further management and disposition is essential in a consultative rotation. This communication must be clear with the team that requests the consultation, the emergency room staff, patients, and patient families. The resident and/or clerk will be responsible for liaising between these groups and ensuring continuity of care.</p> <p>On liver inpatients, through daily interaction with patients, the resident and/or clerk will develop the ability to convey diagnostic and management advice for what can often be extremely complex multisystem disease.</p> <p>There will be opportunity in all types of encounters to see a constellation of beliefs in different ethnic groups. Residents and/or clerks should concentrate on assimilating this information so that they learn to communicate with patients of varying background in an appropriate way.</p> <p>Discussion of endoscopic findings, diagnosis and management plan with the patient and their family will be the responsibility of the resident and/or clerk. Issues related to candidacy for liver transplantation assessment is a sensitive issue that will be encountered recurrently during this rotation. Residents and/or clerks will become expert in discussing these in an appropriate fashion.</p> <p>End-of-life issues are also a common theme regarding patients on the ward. The resident and/or clerk will become expert in discussing and implementing appropriate measures in a humanistic and sensitive manner.</p>

		<p>Both luminal and hepatobiliary patient management requires many allied health workers working together to assess and rehabilitate the individual. The resident and/or clerk will be exposed to these various disciplines (e.g. OT, PT, psychology, social work) and will learn how best to collaborate and communicate and coordinate efforts.</p>
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Collaborator

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Effectively consult with other physicians and health care professionals</p> <p>Contribute effectively to other interdisciplinary team activities</p>	<p>Identify and describe the role, expertise and limitations of all members of an interdisciplinary team required to optimally achieve a goal related to patient care, a research problem, and educational task, or an administrative responsibility</p> <p>Develop a care plan for a patient including investigation, treatment and continuing care, in collaboration with members of the interdisciplinary team.</p> <p>Participate in an interdisciplinary team meeting, demonstrating the ability to accept, consider and respect the opinions of other team members, while contributing specialty-specific expertise themselves.</p>	<p>Both luminal and hepatobiliary patient management requires many allied health workers teaming together to assess and rehabilitate the individual. The resident and/or clerk will be exposed to these various disciplines (e.g. OT, PT, psychology, social work) and best understand their role and learn how best to communicate and coordinate efforts.</p> <p>An intimate collaboration with the emergency room, surgery, medical and radiologic teams is imperative in the management of gastroenterology patients. The resident and/or clerk will learn their role as a medical consultant in this intricate network.</p> <p>Interdisciplinary case discussions are a regular part of this rotation and the resident and/or clerk will learn to incorporate other opinions to ultimately direct patient management.</p>

Manager

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Utilize time and resources effectively in order to balance patient care, learning needs, outside activities and personal lives</p> <p>Allocate finite health care resources effectively</p> <p>Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization</p> <p>Effectively utilize information technology to optimize patient care, continued self-learning, and other activities</p>	<p>Understand how to function effectively in health care organizations, ranging from an individual clinical practice to organizations at the local, regional and national level.</p> <p>Understand the structure, financing and operation of the Canadian health system and its facilities; function effectively with it and be capable of playing an active role in its change</p> <p>Have an ability to access and apply a broad base of information to the care of patients in ambulatory care settings, hospitals and other health care organizations.</p> <p>Make clinical decisions and judgments based on sound evidence for the benefit of individual patients and the population served.</p> <p>Be open to working effectively as a member of a team or a partnership, to accomplish tasks whether one is a team leader or a team member.</p> <p>Understand population-based approaches to health care services and their implications for medical practice.</p> <p>Participate in planning, budgeting, evaluation and outcome of a patient care program.</p>	<p>Understanding and development of these managerial functions is implicit when residents and/or clerks must give a consultative opinion on inpatients to ensure adequate facility is available to follow through on the proposed plan suggested.</p> <p>Evaluation for liver transplantation is a lesson in health economics and resource utilization. As a part of the team, the residents and/or clerks will become expert in analyzing the data pertaining to organ availability and transplantation priority.</p> <p>Particularly through managing inpatients, the resident and/or clerk will become an expert manager able to orchestrate an organized multidisciplinary approach.</p> <p>Management skills through clear communication and expert collaboration are a principal aspect of management of patients to this tertiary referral center. Decisions on how and where to manage these patients will make the resident and/or clerk an expert manager, balancing the needs of the individual in the context of the needs of society as a whole.</p>

Health Advocate

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Identify the important determinants of health that affect a patient, so as to be able to effectively contribute to improving health for patients and communities in Canada This includes the ability to recognize, assess, and respond to the psychosocial, economic and biologic factors influencing the health of those served. The specialist incorporates information on the health determinants into his/her practice behaviors - both with individual patients and their community. At the doctor-patient level, this involves adapting patient management and education so as to promote health, enhance understanding, foster coping abilities, and enhance active participation in informed decision-making. Recognize and respond to those issues, settings, circumstances, or situations in which advocacy on behalf of patients, professions, or society is appropriate. This involves the ability to identify populations at risk, identify current policies that affect health and recognize the fundamental role of epidemiological research in informing practice. At a broader level, this includes the ability to describe how public</p>	<p>Demonstrate an understanding of the following: a) Determinants of health by identifying the most important determinants of health (i.e., poverty, unemployment, early childhood education, social support systems), being familiar with the underlying research evidence, and applying this understanding to common problems and conditions in GI. b) Identifying current policies that affect health, either positively or negatively (i.e., communicable diseases, tobacco, substance abuse); and citing examples of how policy was changed as a result of actions by physicians. Demonstrate an understanding of these concepts as applied to the following three levels: a) In the management of individual patients by identifying the patient’s status with respect to one of more of the determinants of health (i.e. unemployment); adapting the assessment and management accordingly (i.e. the medical history to the patient’s social circumstances); and assessing the patient’s ability to access various services in the health and social system. b) In the analysis of a specialist’s practice population by identifying current “at risk” groups within a given specialty practice and applying, using a computerized practice management system, the available knowledge about prevention to “at risk” groups either the practice; and contributing “group data” for better understanding of health problems within the population. c) In relation to the general population by describing, in broad terms, the key issues currently under debate regarding changes in the Canadian health care system, indicating how these changes might affect societal health outcomes and advocating to decrease the burden of illness (at a community of societal level) of a condition or problem relevant to his/her specialty through a relevant specialty society, community-based advocacy group, other public education organization or legislative bodies or private organizations.</p>	<p>Residents and/or clerks will be expected to develop and impart knowledge to patients and team members of services requesting an opinion regarding prevention of disease, surveillance to prevent complications and health promotion relevant to the specialty of gastroenterology. This is done in both written and verbal format. Evaluation of patients with liver disease and then discussing risk modification is a common theme in many types of liver disease. Residents and/or clerks will become expert in identifying risks, including hereditary / genetic risks, and thereby advocate strategies for risk modification, appropriate family screening and environmental modification to prevent transmission of disease.</p>

policy is developed and employ methods of influencing the development of health and social policy.		
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Scholar

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Develop, implement and document a personal continuing education strategy.</p> <p>Apply the principles of critical appraisal to sources of medical information</p> <p>Facilitate the learning of patients, students, residents, clerks and other health professionals</p> <p>Contribute to the development of new knowledge</p>	<p>Clinical:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pose a clinical question 2. Recognize and identify gaps in knowledge and expertise around the clinical question 3. Formulate a plan to fill the gap (i.e.) literature search, appraise the literature, store and retrieve literature and consult others. 4. Propose a solution to clinical question 5. Implement the solution and evaluate the outcome 6. Identify areas for research <p>Research:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pose a research question 2. Develop the proposal to solve the question 3. Carry out the research in proposal 4. Defend and disseminate results of the research 5. Identify areas for further research <p>Education:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate an understanding of and ability to apply the principles of adult learning with respect to oneself and to others 2. Demonstrate an understanding of preferred learning methods in dealing with students, residents, clerks and colleagues. 	<p>Research is not a component of this rotation. However, the resident and/or clerk should identify common and unusual presentations in their exposure and conduct an in depth search, using all available search techniques, to improve their knowledge as an expert in diagnosis and management.</p> <p>This also gives the resident and/or clerk an opportunity to identify areas of research or topics for publishing comprehensive reviews.</p>

Professional

Competencies	Specific Objectives	Methods to meet Objectives
<p>Deliver the highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion</p> <p>Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviors</p> <p>Practice medicine in an ethically responsible manner that respects the medical, legal and professional obligations of belonging to a self-regulating body</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discipline – Based Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display attitudes commonly accepted as essential to professionalism • Use appropriate strategies to maintain and advance one’s professional competence • Continually evaluate one’s abilities, knowledge and skills and know one’s limitations of professional competence 2. Personal/Professional Boundary Objectives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adopt specific strategies to heighten personal and professional awareness and explore and resolve interpersonal difficulties in professional relationships • Consciously strive to balance personal and professional roles and responsibilities and to demonstrate ways of attempting to resolve conflicts and role strain 3. Objectives Related to Ethics and Professional Bodies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Know and understand the professional, legal and ethical codes to which physicians are bound • Recognize analyze and attempt to resolve in clinical practice ethical issues such as truth-telling, consent, advance directives, confidentiality, end-of –life care, conflict of interest, resource allocation, research ethics. • Recognize, analyze and know how to deal with unprofessional behaviors in clinical practice, taking into account local and provincial regulations. 	<p>This rotation requires a professional consultative approach with teams requesting an opinion. Professional behavior is implicit in all facets of this rotation.</p> <p>Assessment and management of patients with advanced liver disease deals with many boundaries of societal behavior. Residents and/or clerks will experience constant challenges to their own beliefs or believes of others. They will learn to put these into the perspective of the patient and society as a whole leading to a strengthening of their professional behavior.</p> <p>It is also a subject with rapidly evolving and changing concepts. The resident and/or clerk will be encouraged to apply critical appraisal skills to best determine what is the current best management and standard of care. This requires constant reading and re-evaluation of proposed or accepted therapies.</p> <p>Particularly in the management, decision-making and assessment of family values/desires/directives of patients there is an opportunity to discuss ethical and moral issues. This should be kept in mind as part of the rotation objectives and be a specific topic of discussion where applicable</p>

Evaluation

Evaluations will be done on an ongoing basis. Residents and/or clerks will receive feedback on their performance during and at the end of each rotation. The evaluation will be performed by the gastroenterologists as a group.