

OBJECTIVES FOR MED 3 ROTATIONS

Palliative Medicine A2

1. Goals of the Rotation

The overall goal of the rotation is to offer a learning experience in the area of palliative medicine to undergraduate trainees.

2. Educational Objectives of the Rotation

Successful students will acquire an understanding of the principles, philosophy, and core knowledge, skills and attitudes of palliative medicine. Along with core objectives, the rotation will provide flexibility to offer a learning experience in palliative medicine that is consistent with the objectives of individual residents with varied backgrounds and career goals.

Communicator

To provide humane, high-quality care, specialists establish effective relationships with patients, other physicians and other health professionals. Communication skills are essential for the functioning of a specialist and are necessary for obtaining information from and conveying information to patients and their families. Furthermore, these abilities are critical in eliciting patients' beliefs, concerns and expectations about their illnesses and for assessing key factors impacting on patients' health.

General Requirements:

- Establish therapeutic relationships with patients/families.
- Obtain and synthesize relevant history from patients/families/communities.
- Listen effectively.
- Discuss appropriate information with patients/families and the health care team.

Professional

Specialists have a unique societal role as professionals with a distinct body of knowledge, skills and attitudes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of others. Specialists are committed to the highest standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct and to continually perfecting mastery of their discipline.

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General Requirements:

- Deliver highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion.
- Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviors.
- Practice medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician.

Objectives

1. The student will be able to describe medical and societal attitudes towards death and dying.
2. The student will be able to demonstrate a whole person (person-centered) approach to caring for dying patients and their families.
3. The student will demonstrate awareness of personal issues and concerns re death and dying.

Medical Expert/Clinical Decision-Maker

Specialists possess a defined body of knowledge and procedural skills which are used to collect and interpret data, make appropriate clinical decisions and carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedure within the boundaries of their discipline and expertise.

Their care is characterized by up-to-date, ethical and cost-effective clinical practice and effective communication in partnership with patients, other health care providers and the community. The role of medical expert/clinical decision-maker is central to the function of specialist physicians and draws on the competencies included in the roles of scholar, communicator, health advocate, manager, collaborator and professional.

General Requirements:

- Demonstrate diagnostic and therapeutic skills for ethical and effective patient care.
- Access and apply relevant information to clinical practice.
- Demonstrate effective consultation services with respect to patient care, education and legal opinions.

Objectives

4. The student will be able to demonstrate effective knowledge, skills and attitudes in dealing with the complex interplay of the physical, psychological, social and spiritual needs of dying patients and their families.
5. The student will be able to discuss the ethical issues confronting dying patients, their families and their physicians including end of life decision-making, advance directives, care planning, competency, euthanasia and assisted suicide.

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Collaborator

Specialists work in partnership with others who are appropriately involved in the care of individuals or specific groups of patients. It is therefore essential for specialists to be able to collaborate effectively with patients and a multidisciplinary team of expert health professionals for provision of optimal patient care, education and research.

General Requirements

- Consult effectively with other physicians and health care professionals.
- Contribute effectively to other interdisciplinary team activities.

Objectives

6. The student will be able to collaborate as an effective member of an interdisciplinary team.
7. The student will be able to demonstrate requisite knowledge and skills in managing patients across different care systems.
8. The student will demonstrate skills in managing patients in their homes.

Scholar

Specialists engage in a lifelong pursuit of mastery of their domain of professional expertise. They recognize the need to be continually learning and model this for others. Through their scholarly activities, they contribute to the appraisal, collection and understanding of health care knowledge and facilitate the education of their students, patient and others.

General Requirements:

- Develop, implement and monitor a personal continuing education strategy.
- Critically appraise sources of medical information.
- Facilitate learning of patients, house staff/students and other health professionals.
- Contribute to development of new knowledge.

Manager

Specialists function as managers when they make everyday practice decisions involving resources, co-workers, tasks, policies and their personal lives. They do this in the settings of individual patient care, practice organizations and in the broader context of the health care system. Thus, specialists require the abilities to prioritize and effectively execute tasks through teamwork with colleagues and make systematic decisions when allocating finite health care resources. As managers, specialists take on positions of leadership within the context of professional organizations and the dynamic Canadian health care system.

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General Requirements:

- Utilize resources effectively to balance patient care, learning needs and outside activities.
- Allocate finite health care resources wisely.
- Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization.
- Utilize information technology to optimize patient care life-long learning and other activities.

Health Advocate

Specialists recognize the importance of advocacy activities in responding to the challenges represented by those social, environmental and biological factors that determine the health of patients and society. They recognize advocacy as an essential and fundamental component of health promotion that occurs at the level of the individual patient, the practice population and the broader community. Health advocacy is appropriately expressed both by the individual and collective responses of specialist physicians in influencing public health and policy.

General Requirements:

- Identify the important determinants of health affecting patients.
- Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities.
- Recognize and respond to those issues where advocacy is appropriate.

Objectives

9. The student will be able to demonstrate the ability to incorporate accepted standards of palliative care into their practices.
10. The student will be able to incorporate evidence based decision making in caring for dying patients and their families.

