

## Overview: Palliative Medicine A2 Clerkship Rotation

Welcome to your Palliative Medicine Rotation.

Over the next 4 weeks you will be a crucial member of the interdisciplinary team on the inpatient palliative care unit (PCU). Your primary responsibility will involve assessment and medical care of patients on the inpatient unit located on 7A centennial building. This will involve admission and discharge of patients, daily clinical rounds and review with attending staff, maintenance of the medical record, attendance and input at weekly team rounds and patient and family conferences.

The inpatient PCU is an acute care palliative medicine unit. The majority of the patients have complex symptoms and medical problems related to progressive incurable illness. Patients are usually admitted for assessment and management of multiple symptoms as well as treatment of associated medical complications from their underlying illness.

Although the palliative medicine service does provide care to people who are actively dying, it must be emphasized that a significant proportion of our efforts involve providing medical care to people who are living with life threatening illness such as metastatic cancer, and advanced heart and lung disease. Though, approximately 50% of patients admitted to the service will die in hospital, the other half will be discharged for ongoing coordinated follow up and support in the community. Therefore, though you will become more familiar with appropriate care for patients who are actively dying, your primary focus will be in caring for patients who are at risk of dying but who are living with a variety of complex medical problems that require ongoing assessment, management and coordination of follow-up medical care.

The general objectives for the rotation outlined in the Clerkship Manual are attached for your reference.

In addition to general medical care and teaching you will attend sessions and activities specific to palliative medicine service including: **Multidisciplinary Education Rounds/Evidence-Based Journal Club (Note: Sessions are not held in July & August) and Current Issues in Palliative Care Teaching Sessions.**

You will be expected to briefly present ‘**Case of the Week**’ every second Friday. This will usually be on a subject encountered during routine care of patients on the service.

- **Case Presentation**- general summary of case encountered on the service.
- **Focused Medical Topic**- relevance to case, why of interest...
- **Medical Literature**- may include definition, epidemiology / classification and prognosis, clinical manifestations, diagnosis / lab findings and evaluation, treatment... as well as any relevant basic science.
- **Discussion** with attendees

An oral presentation will be expected. Visual aides (overhead, Powerpoint) may certainly be used but are not required. You should ensure that any required AV equipment is available (arrange with Unit MD) prior to the presentation. The timing should be approximately 30 minutes including 5-10 minutes at the end for discussion.

### **Internal Mail Delivery/Lockers**

There is a shared in-basket for all learners located at the nurse's station on 7A. Copies of Journal articles/other mail will be left in this basket. Please check periodically. Lockers are available on Unit 7A (outside office # 073) to secure your valuables/personal items. Please bring your own lock.

### **Orientation**

Please report to the nurses station Unit 7A, Centennial building at 0900. The unit physician indicated on your rotation schedule will meet with you.

I hope you will find your rotation in palliative medicine to be a rewarding experience. If at any time you have questions or concerns feel free to approach your preceptor or to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

David Dupere, MD  
Undergraduate Program Director  
Division of Palliative Medicine

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