The University of Maryland School of Medicine
Medicine Clerkship
Goals and Objectives
Based on the Medical School Objectives Project

These goals and objectives reflect the four key attributes that physicians need upon completion of their medical degree to be prepared for the practice of medicine. Physicians must be: altruistic, knowledgeable, skillful and dutiful. Therefore, at the completion of the Medicine Clerkship, students will be able to demonstrate:

ALTRUISM

Goal 1: Demonstrates respect, compassion, accountability, integrity and a responsiveness to the needs of patients that supercedes self-interest

Objectives
- Demonstrate adherence to ethical principles of beneficence, non-malevolence, autonomy and justice in daily practice
- Responds positively to constructive criticism by improving health behavior/skills
- Demonstrate the defining attributes of the medical professional, including:
  - Acts with honesty and integrity (being truthful, meeting commitments)
  - Shows reliability and responsibility (honoring assigned duties, being accountable)
  - Shows respect for others in all spheres of contact and regard for others’ worth and dignity
  - Strives for self-improvement so as to provide the highest quality of health care through life-long learning and education
  - Indicates self awareness and a knowledge of one’s own limits by recognizing the need for guidance and supervision

Goal 2: Demonstrates commitment to advocate for the interests of one’s patients over one’s own self interest

Objectives:
- Appropriately refers patients to ancillary and consultant services
- During duty hours, places patient care activities above personal concerns
- Identifies key personnel on the health care team who can advocate for the patient
- Collaborates effectively with other health care providers to identify the optimal plan for each patient
- Ensures that patient care duties are completed or thoroughly transferred to another care-giver before leaving the ward for conferences, for the day, or to change services

Goal 3: Demonstrates respect for confidentiality of patient information

Objectives:
- Demonstrates familiarity with the laws and rules governing the confidentiality of patient information
- Describe the indications and procedure for obtaining informed consent
- Maintains the confidentiality of patient information, including their records
Goal 4: Demonstrates sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to, diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities and sexual orientation

Objectives:
• Discuss patient characteristics such as culture, age, gender and disabilities that must be considered when rendering care
• Demonstrate recognition of the cultural issues that can play an important role in how patients perceive the need for health care
• Consider the impact of disability on a patient’s life and that of the family

Goal 5: Participates fully in patient care activities and demonstrates honesty and integrity in all interactions with patients, their families, colleagues and ancillary staff (such as nurses, therapists and social workers)

Objectives:
• Adapts to the health care team’s routines (rounds, conferences)
• Communicates effectively and respectfully with other members of the health care team
• Acts reliably, i.e. completes assigned tasks, is on time, communicates aberrancies to the team leader
• Actively participates in the functioning of the team and is helpful
• Demonstrates professional demeanor and dress during patient care activities

KNOWLEDGE

Goal 1: Demonstrates understanding of the normal aging process

Objectives:
• Recognizes the physiological changes that occur in men and women as they age
• Appreciates the importance of adjustments in dietary needs and medication dosing throughout the stages of life
• Demonstrates self-learning and attendance at conferences that address these topics

Goal 2: Demonstrates knowledge in the pathogenesis and pathophysiology of common medical illnesses, and applies the basic and clinically supportive sciences necessary to care for these problems (See the Medicine Clerkship Core Curriculum for a complete listing of core topics covered in the curriculum as mandated by CDIM and SGIM)

Objectives:
• Demonstrates required knowledge base in each Internal Medicine discipline through such tools as tutorial and small group participation, patient write-ups and written examination
• Regularly attends and participates in all required didactic sessions
• Participates actively in discussions of patients during inpatient and outpatient experiences
• Seeks appropriate literature and other sources to improve one’s knowledge base
• Seeks feedback on areas of knowledge base weakness
Goal 3: Demonstrates an investigatory and analytic thinking approach to clinical situations

Objectives:
- Identify learning objectives of all components of the rotation (including dermatology and hospice) by participation in orientation sessions
- Address the chief complaint as the starting point for a focused history and physical
- Proceed in a logical, step-wise fashion in the evaluation and management of a patient by performing the H&P, generating a differential diagnosis from that H&P, arriving at and prioritizing a diagnostic work up based upon the differential diagnosis, and determining a management plan based on all of these findings
- Adjusts evaluation and management to new information (demonstrates flexibility in approach)
- Takes a proactive role in one’s own education, identifying and correcting areas of knowledge deficit through interaction with the literature, attendings, residents, electronic sources, conferences, etc.

Goal 4: Demonstrates an understanding of the rapidly expanding literature and knowledge in Internal Medicine and the need to develop an effective system for life-long learning to stay abreast of changes in the field

Objectives:
- Investigates specific areas of knowledge weakness
- Identifies one’s own learning objectives in addition to those of the clerkship
- Seeks feedback on deficits in knowledge and actively pursues suggested reading during inpatient and outpatient rotations
- Contributes to the educational process by reporting new knowledge to the team caring for the patients verbally and in the written record

SKILLS

Goal 1: Gathers essential and accurate information about the patient

Objectives:
- Assists the patient and/or care givers to be comfortable in relaying the history
- Identifies self and explains role as a student to the patient
- Asks open ended questions
- Performs a complete history including:
  - a chief complaint
  - history of present illness
  - past medical history
  - detailed family history
  - medications with dosages
  - allergies and specific reactions
  - social and sexual history
  - history of substance use
  - nutritional history
  - occupational history
  - review of systems
• Demonstrates compassion while listening to patient concerns
• Conveys an appreciation for the value of the care-givers observations and judgments regarding the patients health and illness
• Obtains sensitive information in a confidential and non-judgmental manner
• Appreciates age and gender-specific concerns of the patient
• Assimilates previously obtained information into the history of the current illness
• Conveys an appreciation for the opportunity to be involved in the care of the patient
• Uses non-verbal techniques to facilitate communication

Goal 2: Performs a detailed and accurate physical examination

Objectives:

• Performs a detailed and accurate physical examination of the patient
• Use language appropriate for each patient
• Demonstrates proper hygienic practices whenever examining a patient
• Position the patient properly for each part of the examination
• Uses focused examinations in appropriate situations, such as rectal or pelvic examinations, fundoscopic examination or full neurological examination
• Is observant of the patients modesty during the examination

Goal 3: Demonstrates effective communication with patients and colleagues

Objectives:

• Provides accurate verbal and written communication
• Orally presents a patient in a manner that is logical, chronological, and succinct
• Summarizes the pertinent positives and negatives
• Includes diagnostic and therapeutic plans
• Is presented as much from memory as possible
• Actively seeks feedback on write-ups
• Writes daily progress notes on inpatients
• Presents patients to the attending physician and/or resident
• Sings out patient care duties prior to leaving
• Recognizes when to seek consultations for additional diagnostic and therapeutic recommendations
• Writes legibly

Goal 4: Make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions based on patient information, current scientific evidence, and clinical judgment

Objectives:

• Generates an appropriate differential diagnosis from the chief complaint
• Formulates and prioritizes a basic differential based on the information available from the patient and literature
• Recognizes limitations of the level of training by seeking help and accepting input from others
• Interprets evidence in making diagnostic and therapeutic decisions
Access available resources (medical literature, subspecialty consultations, on-line resources) to assure accuracy/currency of diagnostic and therapeutic intervention

Discusses the therapeutic management plans with residents/attending prior to implementing them

Selects, interprets and utilizes the appropriate laboratory and radiographic studies to evaluate medical problems

Changes the therapeutic plan when goals of care changes

Assists in counseling patients regarding management plans

Demonstrates sensitivity to the preferences of patients when arriving at a management plan

Goal 5: Develop and carry out patient management plans in hospital and after discharge

Objectives:

- Define the need for appropriate follow-up based on age, diagnosis and psychosocial issues
- Discuss with ancillary services (social work, physical therapy, etc.) potential needs to assist recovery or maintain health status
- Counsel patients about risk factor modification
- Recognize the importance of patient education as the foundation of compliance and disease management

Goal 6: Recognizes the history, physical exam, and diagnostic test findings for common medical conditions (See appendix 1 and 2 for a comprehensive list of the topics students are expected to encounter during the Clerkship)

Objectives:

- Demonstrates knowledge of common illnesses in the adult by discussing patients on the inpatient and outpatient rotations
- Prepares for and participates in tutorial sessions on common medical emergencies
- Recognize common ECG patterns for conditions listed in appendix 2
- Recognize basic radiographic findings such as pneumothorax, lobar pneumonia, cardiomegaly and hilar lymphadenopathy

Goal 7: Provide effective health maintenance and anticipatory guidance

Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the recommended periodicity schedule for routine health supervision visits
- Identify patients at high risk for medical problems such as diabetes, heart disease, HIV infection
- Counsel a patient about safe sex-practices, smoking cessation, weight loss, healthy diets, exercise, seat belts
- Locate recently published recommendations for routine health screening

Goal 8: Work effectively with others as a member of the health care team

Objectives:

- Define the various roles played by members of the health care team, including nurses, social workers, therapists and clerical staff
- Identify and learn the names of the health care team members
- Adapt to the health care team’s routine (rounds, conferences, etc)
- Actively participate in the team functions and complete assigned tasks
- Convey respect for other team members
- Assist health care team members when necessary
- Report concerns about patients or team members to the resident, attending, or Clerkship Director

Goal 9: Create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients

Objectives:
- Participate in a discussion about advanced directives with a patient
- Identify the ethical and legal boundaries of the physician-patient relationship
- Dress professionally
- Demonstrate a commitment to caring for patients regardless of the medical diagnosis, gender, race, socioeconomic status, level of education, religion, cultural background, etc.
- Participate in team/family discussions about the importance of allowing a terminally ill patient to die with comfort and dignity when that is consistent with their wishes
- Perform a history and physical exam appropriate to the encounter
- Demonstrate appropriate concern during the patient interaction

DUTIFUL BEHAVIORS

Goal 1: Locate, appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies and other sources related to one's health problems

Objectives:
- Demonstrate familiarity with the process of evidence-based medicine, including how to frame a clinical question, how to search the literature, how to appraise the literature, and how to apply the evidence
- Demonstrate familiarity with statistics for physicians by knowing the principles and statistical techniques necessary to analyze biostatistical data (ARR, NNT, p values, risk ratios, odds ratios, meta-analyses, etc.
- Use hospital based support systems to assist in making clinical decisions (practice guidelines, infection control)
- Recognize system flaws in the delivery of care
- Identify resources available to patients within the health care system

Goal 2: Use information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information; and support their own education

Objectives:
- Uses computer technology to find evidence and interpret an answer to a clinical question
- Applies the information to their patient
- Utilizes web-based, textbook and library resources to effective manage information
- Discuss some of the potential benefits/deficiencies of online resources
- Recognizes the importance of life-long learning by continuously seeking pertinent information from a variety of sources
- Facilitate the learning of peers and other health care professionals
Goal 3: Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resources

Objectives:

• Optimize individual patient care by recognizing the health care system context of each individual patient
• Demonstrate a commitment to caring for patients who are unable to pay and to advocate for the care of the underserved and underprivileged
• Understand the importance of complete medical documentation in the context of measuring quality of care, avoiding redundancy, preventing medical errors and improving patient safety
• Strive to improve the timeliness of diagnostic and therapeutic decision making in order to improve quality of care, increase patient satisfaction, and reduce health care costs
• Appreciate that medical error prevention and patient safety are the responsibility of all health care providers and systems, and accept the appropriate degree of responsibility at the medical student level

Reviewed 6/2014