

## **Internal Medicine Clerkship Objectives, 3.0**

### **Professionalism**

#### **Provide compassionate care to patients with respect for their privacy and dignity**

1. Provide compassionate, empathetic care to patients and their families with respect for their privacy, dignity, cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic factors.

#### **Display honesty, integrity, and responsibility in all educational settings and in interactions with patients, their families, and colleagues**

1. Display honesty, integrity, respect, and responsibility in all educational settings and in interactions with patients, families, colleagues, staff, and other healthcare professionals
2. Identify personal emotional responses including biases and prejudices when caring for patients from diverse cultural backgrounds
3. Complete assigned professional responsibilities in a timely manner
4. Maintain a well-groomed, professional appearance.

#### **Demonstrate altruism by consistently advocating for the patient's best interest**

1. Advocate for patients from particularly vulnerable populations:
  - a. Elderly
  - b. Mental illness
  - c. Victims of abuse
  - d. Cognitive or physical disability
  - e. Low socioeconomic status
  - f. Language barrier

#### **Summarize and put into practice the principles of ethical decision-making**

1. Recognize and reconcile one's own beliefs and biases around culture, spirituality, death and dying, doctor/patient relationships in an effort to provide ethical treatment of all people.
2. Provide counseling to patients and families in an unbiased manner.

#### **Demonstrate accountability to the patient, society, and the profession through a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development**

1. Demonstrate accountability to the patient, society, and the profession by maintaining a commitment to self-assessment, self-directed learning and acceptance of feedback, and by contributing to a positive learning environment.

#### **Participate as an active member of the learning community and facilitate the learning of peers and other health care professionals**

1. Participate as an active member of the learning community and facilitate the learning of peers and other health care professionals through educational activities such as Team-Based Learning, EBM presentations, and case-based presentations to faculty and residents.

## **Patient Engagement and Communication (IP/C Skills)**

### **Create and sustain therapeutic and ethically sound relationships with patients and their families**

1. Promote therapeutic and ethically sound relationships with patients and their families through active listening, rapport building, open-ended questioning, empathy, posture, and eye contact.
2. Adapt the medical interview based on personal background (including age, gender, culture, educational level, etc). Specific techniques: motivational interview, adolescent, language (interpreters)

### **Employ effective oral and written communication skills to elicit and convey information while building rapport with patients, their families, and professional associates**

1. Demonstrate effective oral communication with the health care team avoiding jargon and vague terms.
2. Participate in transitions of care (e.g. handoff, discharge communication)
3. Accurately document a complete, focused, patient history and appropriate examination.

### **Build collaborative relationships across both educational and clinical environments with patients, their families, and professional associates**

1. Promote therapeutic and ethically sound relationships with patients and their families through active listening, rapport building, open-ended questioning, empathy, posture, and eye contact.
2. Adapt the medical interview based on personal background (including age, gender, culture, educational level, etc). Specific techniques: motivational interview, adolescent, language (interpreters)

### **Demonstrate the ability to engage in shared decision making with patients and their families or individuals designated to fulfill this responsibility for the patient**

1. Negotiate a therapeutic plan with the patient and family to maximize adherence with the agreed upon treatment regimens and assess the family's understanding of the plan.
2. Explain the process for informed consent for procedures, etc

### **Demonstrate techniques of patient education and counseling in basic lifestyle changes and disease prevention**

1. Assess patient-level risk factors for disease
2. Incorporate appropriate screening tests
3. Counsel patients on risk factors.

## **Medical Knowledge**

### **Use the scientific method to analyze basic, translational, and clinical research**

1. Apply evidence from the medical literature to the care of patients

### **Delineate the molecular basis for the functions of organs and systems in health and disease**

1. Describe the molecular basis for common diseases encountered in clinical medicine including:
  - a. Malignancy

- b. Pathologic metabolic disease and its outcomes (including cardiovascular, endocrine, and renal diseases)
- c. Infectious disease (bacterial, fungal, viral)
- d. Pathologic physiology due to substance abuse
- e. Physiologic changes associated with aging

**Describe, apply, and integrate the normal and pathologic structure and function of each organ system of the body**

- 1. Describe the normal physiology of all major organ systems
- 2. Describe the pathophysiology responsible for common diseases in all major organ systems.
- 3. Design an initial management plan for a patient with pathology in a major organ system.

**Describe, apply, and integrate the ways in which organ systems are affected by the various causative mechanisms of disease**

- 1. Apply principles of anatomy, pathology, and pathophysiology to the care of patients

**Recognize the clinical, laboratory, radiographic, and pathologic manifestations of disease**

- 1. Describe the relevant clinical, laboratory, radiologic, and pathologic manifestations of common disease processes encountered in Internal Medicine:

Table 1:

Coronary artery disease  
Hypertension  
Arrhythmia  
Diabetes  
Gastrointestinal bleeding  
Liver disease  
Abdominal pain  
Anemia  
Malignancy  
Hospital-acquired infections  
Pneumonia  
Urinary tract infection  
Altered mental status  
Stroke  
Seizure  
Asthma  
COPD  
Acid-base disorders  
Renal insufficiency (acute and chronic)  
Lupus/Vasculitis  
Arthritis  
Peripheral arterial disease  
Venous thromboembolism

**Describe, apply, and integrate the scientific basis of disease prevention and treatment, including intended and unintended effects**

1. Identify patients who warrant screening for common co-morbidities and complications of the conditions listed in Table 1.

**Apply evidence-based medicine to determine the causation of disease and the efficacy of traditional and non-traditional therapies**

1. Apply evidence from the literature to facilitate in the diagnosis and management of diseases including medical and non-medical options; traditional and non-traditional options.

**Appraise the impact of social-behavioral factors on health maintenance, causation of disease, and therapeutic outcomes**

1. Describe the psychosocial factors which influence a patient's health status, risk of disease, adherence, and response to therapies.

**Patient Care**

**Be able to obtain a complete history and perform a comprehensive physical/mental status examination**

1. Obtain a complete history and perform a comprehensive physical examination necessary to diagnose and manage the conditions in Table 1.

**Utilize a focused history and physical and mental status examination to obtain relevant clinical information in an efficient manner**

1. Perform a focused, efficient, and accurate history and physical examination sufficient to provide a daily progress report and management plan on a patient hospitalized with the conditions located in Table 1.

**Recognize patients with immediate life threatening or serious conditions that require critical care and outline an initial course of management**

1. Identify patients with immediate life threatening or serious conditions
2. Outline an initial management plan for patients with immediate life threatening or serious conditions

**Discuss with and provide to patients and their families information and counseling aimed at disease management, prevention, and wellness**

1. Provide patients and their families with information related to disease management, prevention, and wellness.

**Identify the epidemiology of common conditions within a defined population and apply systematic approaches to help reduce the incidence and prevalence of these conditions**

1. Describe the epidemiology of common conditions within the adult population

**Describe the indications, risks, limitations, complications, and interpretation of commonly used diagnostic tests**

1. Describe the indications, risks, limitations, complications, and interpretation of commonly used diagnostic tests.
  - a. comprehensive metabolic panel
  - b. coagulation studies
  - c. complete blood count
  - d. chest x-ray
  - e. ECG
  - f. chest CT
  - g. head CT
  - h. abdominal CT
  - i. echocardiogram

**Perform routine procedures competently and identify the indications, risks, limitations, justifications, complications, and interpretations of these procedures**

1. Explain the considerations for informed consent for routine procedures
2. Identify the indications, risks, limitations, justifications, complications, and interpretations of common procedures:
  - a. central venous catheters
  - b. thoracentesis
  - c. paracentesis
  - d. arthrocentesis
  - e. lumbar puncture
  - f. incision and drainage

**Construct appropriate assessments, differential diagnoses, and treatment plans for patients across the spectrum of medical presentations**

1. Construct appropriate assessments, differential diagnoses, and treatment plans for patients encountered in the clerkship (see Table 1).

**Gather, interpret, and apply ongoing relevant clinical information in the care of patients**

1. Gather interval data to facilitate the ongoing care of patients using available resources including: patient/family, nursing staff, and the electronic health record.
2. Apply interval data to the management of patients

**Select appropriate tests for detecting patients at risk for specific diseases and determine strategies for responding appropriately**

1. Recommend appropriate screening tests for the conditions in Table 1.

**Utilize information technology to gather patient data, support patient care decisions, and educate patients and their families**

1. Gather patient data using the electronic health record
2. Utilize technology appropriately to support medical decision making
3. Provide educational materials to patients and their families

## **Systems-Based Practice**

### **Obtain patient histories including information about patients' culture and other factors that may influence the appropriate course of care**

1. Obtain a complete history including information about culture.

### **Perform culturally-sensitive physical exams**

1. Obtain a complete physical examination paying attention to culturally-sensitive aspects.

### **Identify cultural barriers that are perceived by patients as impacting health and health care**

1. Identify cultural barriers which impact delivery of healthcare in Internal Medicine.
  - a. religious beliefs and/or cultural traditions
  - b. literacy barriers
  - c. reduced socioeconomic resources

### **Develop plans of care that take into account pertinent cultural attributes of patients and address barriers perceived by patients**

1. Describe barriers that prevent patients from gaining access to health care, including financial, cultural and geographic barriers

### **Describe the various roles and responsibilities of members of the health care team**

1. Describe the various roles and responsibilities of members of the health care team

### **Interact effectively with all members of the health care team to provide the best possible care for patients**

1. Engage in collaborative communication with all members of the health care team

### **Practice a commitment to provide care to patients who are unable to pay and to advocate for access to health care for members of underserved populations**

1. Describe a physician's role and responsibility in advocating for the needs of patients (individual and populations) within society.

### **Recognize and appropriately address gender and cultural biases in themselves and others and in the process of health care delivery**

1. Identify and account for stereotypes, personal bias and prejudices towards patients from various cultural groups

## **PBL**

### **Demonstrate the understanding of the limitations of one's own knowledge and skills and seek to engage in lifelong learning and the advice and teaching of more experienced medical practitioners to address those limitations**

1. Identify areas of strength and weakness to develop a plan for improvement.