

Rural Family Medicine – PGY-1

Goal: To develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to provide appropriate and effective medical evaluation and treatment for a medical concerns and conditions seen by family physicians in rural settings or resource limited settings.

Objectives:

Patient Care

- I. Provide compassionate and competent and comprehensive medical care as a rural family medicine physician.**
 1. Gather essential and accurate information about patients from their provided histories and medical records.
 2. Conduct an appropriate physical exam based on the patient's chief complaint and medical history.
 3. Develop differential diagnoses and management plans for common presenting complaints and medical conditions seen in the rural primary care setting.
 4. Prioritize diagnostic testing to aid in management of the primary care patient.
 5. Initiate appropriate referrals and consultations within the rural community and when needed to outside urban centers.
 6. Provide care in a variety of available settings in the rural community, including the outpatient clinic, hospital, medical intensive care unit, labor and delivery, and emergency department.
- II. Competently perform common rural family medicine procedures.**
 1. Counsel patients on the indications, risks, benefits and alternatives of procedures.
 2. Obtain informed consent for needed procedures.
 3. Clearly document procedures performed.

Medical Knowledge

- I. Demonstrate a commitment to acquiring the knowledge needed for independent evaluation and management of medical concerns in a rural setting.**
 1. Demonstrate correct interpretation of commonly ordered laboratory tests/imaging.
 2. Develop management plans that incorporate patient preferences, social and behavioral concerns, as well as cultural considerations.
 3. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of the unique issues related to management of the most common diagnoses seen in the rural primary care setting.
 4. Develop and demonstrate an understanding of strategies for improving patient adherence and compliance in a rural setting, including assessments and interventions for improving health literacy.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- I. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills with patients, families, and medical staff needed for the establishment of an inter-professional approach to rural healthcare.**
 1. Communicate clearly with patients regarding their diagnoses and treatment plans using language appropriate to the patient's health literacy level.
 2. Communicate clearly and effectively with physicians at urban referral centers when arranging transport of patients to a higher level of care.

3. Present patients to attendings in a concise, but thorough manner, focused on the purpose of the current visit and condition of the patient.
4. Communicate and work effectively with staff, health professionals, specialists, referring and primary care providers to create and sustain information exchange and teamwork for patient care.
5. Provide documentation in medical records that is accurate, complete and well-organized.
6. Recognize the complexities of privacy issues specific to small community settings.

Professionalism

- I. Carry out responsibilities reliably, timely, and confidentiality and showing respect for patients and other healthcare workers.**
 1. Demonstrate personal accountability to the well-being of patients.
 2. Maintain an appropriate and professional appearance and behavior during interactions with patients, staff and colleagues.
 3. Complete assigned duties (including accurate completion of charting) in a timely manner.

System-Based Practice

- I. Recognize the structure, mission, available resources, and funding sources of the rural site and utilize them to provide optimal care for patients.**
 1. Identify local health-related resources available to patients of the rural clinic or hospital.
 2. Utilize EMS transportation mechanisms appropriately, with attention to the legalities of EMTALA.
 3. Act as a patient advocate, helping navigate the health care system in resource limited settings.

Practice Based Learning and Improvement

- I. Continually assess knowledge and patient care practices and utilize information to stimulate self-directed learning to improve one's patient care in rural and underserved settings.**
 1. Identify sources of information and guidelines pertaining to primary care in the rural setting.
 2. Formulate and answer clinical questions using evidence-based resources.
 3. Remain receptive to preceptor feedback and integrate feedback into clinical practice.