

End of Life Vertical Integrated Curriculum Course/Clerkship Content

Many objectives of the End of Life Curriculum will be addressed during individual patient encounters with seriously ill and dying patients during the clerkships.

Didactics and case discussions occur throughout the 4-year curriculum which formally address issues related to caring for patients, and their families, at the end of life. These sessions provide students with the background for participating in the care of and communication with their patients.

YEAR 1

Behavioral Medicine and Development

- Lecture: Death and Dying

Patient Centered Medicine 1

- Lecture: Clinical Bioethics
- Lecture: Catholic Clinical Bioethics
- Lecture: Spirituality
- Small Group Case Discussion: Spirituality and Death & Dying
- Chaplain Mentor Program - This has been an intense experience for students, as some have experienced witnessing their first death in medicine through this program.

YEAR 2

Mechanisms of Human Disease

- Lecture: Coma, Brain Death, End of Life
- Lecture: The Autopsy
- Small Group Case Discussion: Patient with Metastatic Lung Cancer

Pharmacology and Therapeutics

- Lecture: Palliation of Constipation, Nausea and Vomiting
- Lecture: Opioids
- Lecture: NSAIDS

Patient Centered Medicine 2

- Lecture Raising Difficult Subjects: Advance Directives, Code Status, Notification of Death, Requesting an Autopsy

YEAR 3

Patient Centered Medicine 3

- End of Life Sessions I and II
 - Lecture: Hospice and Palliative Medicine
 - Lecture: Last Hours of Living: Care of the Imminently Dying Patient
 - Lecture: Giving Bad News
 - Lecture: End of Life Ethics
 - Faculty Panel Discussion: The Ways We Cope, Physicians and Patient Loss”
 - On-line Learning: Pain Management - Self Assessment

- “Spiritual Care and Death of a Patient”: One of the requirements of the PCM3 Course is completion of a paper in which each student reflects on the ethical and human dimensions of caring for one of their patients who died.

Surgery Clerkship

- Students are required to formulate a short summary of an end of life experience encountered during the surgery clerkship.

YEAR 4

Subinternship: Wards

- Case Discussion: Pain Management

Subinternship ICU:

- On-line didactic: Ethics in the ICU