

Internal Medicine Clerkship

Course Description

Overview:

The Internal Medicine clerkship is an 8-week clerkship comprised of two 4-week clinical rotations.

Inpatient rotations will occur at the Foster G. McGaw Hospital (LUMC), Edward Hines Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital (HVA), or West Suburban Hospital (WSH).

Outpatient rotations will occur at the Loyola Outpatient Center (LOC) or one of our satellite clinics (including LaGrange, Burr Ridge, Oakbrook Terrace, Hickory Hills, and Homer Glen), Edward Hines Jr. Department of Veterans Affairs Hospital (HVA), or Access to Care Clinic.

Students will be assigned to different services at each hospital site. These service assignments are made by the clerkship coordinator and will be made known to students before the start of the clerkship.

At the beginning of each rotation there will be a group orientation, as well as an orientation at each specific site, at which time students will receive pertinent materials.

At the end of each 4-week block, hospital assignments are changed. Students are not on duty or on call over these "switch" weekends between assignments.

Core Curriculum:

During the clerkship, there is a defined set of educational activities in which students must participate. These educational activities are designed to help you meet the competencies and cover the clerkship learning objectives.

Lectures:

These occur on Tuesday afternoons at Loyola. All students must attend no matter which site they are assigned to. These lectures include: Hyponatremia, Acid-Base, Rheumatologic diseases and Immunological tests, Renal tests, Liver tests, Cardiac clinical correlation, CBC/anemia, Pulmonary tests, and Infectious disease basics. Materials for these lectures are located under the Lectures tab on the website.

Case Discussions:

These are conducted on various days at each hospital site. There are 14 case discussions each with recommended references and a discussion guide. These case discussions include: Pulmonary nodule and lung cancer, Atrial fibrillation, GI bleed, Acute renal failure, Asthma, COPD, Mental status changes, Liver disease, DVT/PE, HIV infection, Coronary artery disease, Diabetes mellitus, Congestive heart failure, and Pneumonia.

Aquifer Cases:

The Aquifer Internal Medicine cases are a series of 36 interactive virtual cases that mirror our clerkship learning objectives. These are an excellent resource to bolster your learning and also to fill gaps in learning topics that you have not personally seen or covered in the didactic sessions.

Journal Club:

During one week of your Internal Medicine clerkship you will be expected to participate in a journal club experience. You will be assigned to a small group consisting of 8-10 students and one faculty preceptor. You will be expected to read the article ahead of time and prepare by completing the associated student guide. Please note this guide is based upon the JAMA Evidence-based Medicine series on critical appraisal. Although this is a non-graded exercise, your attendance and participation in this session is mandatory.

Clerkship Requirements and Expectations:

Work responsibilities:

You are expected to actively assist in providing care for assigned patients. This includes the following:

- Constructing H&P's, problem lists with assessments and plans, orders, and progress notes or, in the outpatient setting, longitudinal care follow-up notes (all records must be countersigned).
- Care conscientiously for all patients with appropriate standards of professional, ethical, and moral conduct.
- Interacting with families as appropriate (at least one such interaction for each inpatient month must be witnessed and evaluated).
- Performing routine clinical procedures with appropriate supervision.
- Participating in rounds and demonstrating evidence of reading about patients and accessing and applying medical literature.
- Taking call as assigned; responsibilities will be reviewed during the orientation at each site.

With regards to work hours, you are expected to work six out of seven days per week while on inpatient services. On the outpatient month, students will work Monday through Friday. During the switch weekend between 4-week blocks all students will be off duty. Your work hours will vary by your site or clinic; these will be reviewed during your orientation at each site. Students are not to exceed the maximum of 80 hours per week, including all call activities, and no more than 16 hours in a day.

University designated holidays will be recognized as days on which students are not expected to be on duty or on call (see *Academic Policy Manual - Attendance*).

Please review the separate document for day off requests and sick days.

Educational expectations:

You are expected to prepare for, attend, and actively participate in all structured clerkship activities, including debriefing sessions and examinations.

During each inpatient month, a minimum of four write-ups must be completed by students and evaluated by housestaff or attendings using the "Write-up Evaluation/Feedback" form. A total of eight write-ups with their accompanying feedback forms must be turned in by the end of the clerkship. During both 4-week blocks a mid-evaluation form and patient data log are due at the mid-point of each block, and the final evaluation and final patient log are due at the end of each block.

Attendance:

Attendance is expected at all functions of the Internal Medicine Clerkship, including orientation, lectures, case discussion, journal club, team rounds, clinics, debriefing sessions, and exams. Absences from duty on any of the required activities must be reported according to school policy. If you need to be absent, it is your responsibility to notify those people affected by your absence - for example, your service attending (or resident, if attending not available) on inpatient rotations, and the Medical Education Office or coordinator at your assigned site. Planned absences must be approved through the clerkship coordinator before the start of the clerkship. If you are sick, you must report to Student Health.

Assessments and Grading:

Your Medicine Clerkship grade is comprised of the following:

1. Mid-evaluation (also feedback) from month 1 = 10% *
2. Final evaluation from month 1 = 10% *
3. Mid-evaluation (also feedback) from month 2 = 10% *
4. Final evaluation from month 2 = 10% *
5. Department final examination = 30%
6. OSCE and Clinical Reasoning Exam = 10% (50% SP encounter and 50% CRE)
7. Free-text exam = 10%
8. Radiology Presentation = 5%
9. Clinical Question Conference = 5%

*Percentage allocation is commensurate with the amount of time spent with each team.

There will be a department exam at the end of the Clerkship. This exam will contribute 30% to your final grade. This exam will be administered on the last day of the Clerkship. Two weeks prior to the end of each two-month clerkship, students will receive by email the details of the final week.

According to school policy (see Academic Policy Manual - Attendance), all students are obligated to take the required clerkship examinations on the date, time, and place specified by the department. Exceptions to this policy may be granted for:

1. Reasons of illness, which must be documented by a note from a physician and/or report from the Student Health Office at Loyola, addressed to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs.
2. Any other emergency situation in which evidence can be provided to the Associate Dean for Student Affairs to justify absence from a scheduled examination.

Students excused from an examination by the Associate Dean for Student Affairs for an acceptable reason are responsible for making arrangements with the Medicine Coordinator to take a make-up exam within thirty (30) days of their return, or as soon as a make-up exam is offered by the department. Unauthorized absence from an examination normally will result in a grade of zero for that examination, the consequence of which in almost all cases is course failure. Changes in the examination schedule for individual students will not be granted.

OSCE and Clinical Reasoning Examination:

Before the second month of your Internal Medicine clerkship, you will be asked to perform a focused history and physical exam on a standardized patient. You will have 30 minutes for this encounter. Patient charts are located on the door of each examination room providing basic information about your patient. You will be given time to review the chart before entering the exam room. You may take the chart into the

room with you. Treat the standardized patient as if he or she were your real patient; do whatever you would do in an actual clinical setting. If you would retake vitals with a real patient, then you should do that. All auscultation, percussion, and palpation are to be done on the skin and not over the patient's gown or other items of clothing. 20 minutes into the encounter you will hear an announcement to let you know that 20 minutes have gone by and that you have 10 minutes remaining. Please do not respond to the announcement. If you finish the encounter before 30 minutes have gone by you may close the encounter but know that once you exit the room you may not re-enter until the feedback portion of the exercise.

Following the patient encounter you will have approximately 5-10 minutes to begin to organize your notes. The standardized patient will then meet with you briefly and provide feedback on your performance through use of the Patient Perception Scale.

Please note that all patient encounters are digitally recorded.

After the standardized patient feedback you will then proceed to the assigned SDL room to complete the Clinical Reasoning Examination. You will have 15 minutes to complete this examination. This consists of a patient note in which you will be asked to record a short history with focus on pertinent positive and negative findings for the patient's presenting problem, document pertinent positive and negative physical exam findings, list up to three diagnoses with associated history and physical exam findings, and up to three diagnostic tests you would like to perform. Please note that this examination mirrors the USMLE Clinical Skills examination as is an excellent way to help you prepare for this examination. This examination will be evaluated by the standardized patient, the clerkship director, and the assistant clerkship director. You are expected to maintain your clinical duties before and after this examination.

Free-text Examination:

The free-text examination is a short answer test comprised of approximately 7-9 questions. This exam is designed to test your medical knowledge and diagnostic reasoning in short answer form. This exam will occur during the fourth week of your Internal Medicine clerkship before the OSCE. It is a computerized exam that will be given in an assigned SDL room. You will have one hour to complete it. The exam will be graded by the clerkship director and the assistant clerkship director. You are expected to maintain your clinical duties before and after this examination.

Radiology Presentation:

The radiology presentation is designed to bolster your understanding and interpretation of common radiology tests and how they are used to diagnose and treat patients. In addition, it is an excellent opportunity to learn to effectively communicate with our radiology colleagues to insure complete understanding of our patients and their care.

Prior to the start of the clerkship, you will be assigned a time on a designated Tuesday afternoon during the preset didactic time for your individual presentations. You will be expected to identify a patient that you have cared for, present his or her relevant history and findings, and then review the pertinent imaging findings. You are expected to show the actual images with any patient identifying information removed. Additionally, you are expected to summarize any take-away learning points for your peers. This presentation should be approximately five minutes (no more than 10 minutes) long in power-point format.

A grading rubric has been developed and will be completed by the clerkship director and/or the assistant clerkship director.

There are five components: Background Information, Radiology Review, Application to Patient Care, Interprofessional Collaboration, and Presentation Quality. A student may score needs remediation (1 point), below expectations (2 points), meets expectations (3 points), or exceeds expectations (4 points). A total of 20 points is achievable for this assessment.

Clinical Question Conference:

This presentation is designed to assess your ability to form a relevant and interesting clinical question regarding a patient you are caring for and demonstrate the ability to perform an effective literature search to find evidence regarding your clinical question. In addition, it is designed to assess your ability to critically appraise the cited articles and apply the acquired evidence to your particular patient. This is a critical skill to develop now as it will help you practice evidence-based medicine throughout your future career.

This presentation will be completed during the third week of one inpatient month on the Internal Medicine clerkship. You will be assigned a site and date at the start of the clerkship. You are expected to identify a patient for whom you are caring in order to complete this presentation. You will be expected to complete the student form to help document your clinical question, appraisal of the literature, and how you will apply the evidence to your patient. This form should be your guide to creating your presentation. Please also review the evaluation form to maximize your ability to perform well on this presentation. The presentation will be given during a Clinical Question Conference which will be attended by the students presently rotating at your inpatient site and two grading faculty members. The time and date of this presentation will be assigned prior to the start of the clerkship. The presentation should be approximately 5-10 minutes long and may or may not include a power-point. You will be expected to submit the student form and the copies of the original articles to the grading faculty, which will subsequently be submitted to Debi Kurcab with the evaluation form for proof of completion.

A grading rubric has been developed to evaluate this presentation. There are five components: Ask, Acquire, Appraise, Apply, and Presentation Quality. A student may score needs remediation (1 point), below expectations (2 points), meets expectations (3 points), or exceeds expectations (4 points). A total of 20 points are achievable for this assessment.

Faculty members have been instructed to grade students based on their ability to achieve each particular point. They are expected to complete the evaluation form directly following each student presentation and make comments as appropriate. Both you and the faculty member are expected to sign this form. If time allows, faculty have been instructed to review the form with each individual student at the end of the session.

Each grading faculty member will complete the evaluation form independently and the scores will be averaged for the final grade.

Faculty and Course Evaluations:

Students are required to evaluate their experiences during the Clerkship by completing the on-line Clerkship evaluation.

Recommended Textbooks:

There is no single text that the Department of Medicine requires you to buy solely for this clerkship. We have recommended a number of texts that should help you in your pursuit of life-long learning. Many of these texts are referenced throughout your curriculum. These texts and links to them through the Loyola Health Sciences Library are below.

Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, 20e.

<https://accessmedicine-mhmedical-com.archer.luhs.org/book.aspx?bookID=2129>

Harrison's Manual of Medicine, 19e.

<https://accessmedicine-mhmedical-com.archer.luhs.org/Book.aspx?bookid=1820>

Symptom to Diagnosis: An Evidence-Based Guide, 3e

<https://accessmedicine-mhmedical-com.archer.luhs.org/Book.aspx?bookid=1088>

Step-Up to Medicine, 4e.

<https://clerkship-lwwhealthlibrary-com.archer.luhs.org/book.aspx?bookid=1627&rotationId=0>

Pocket Medicine: The Massachusetts General Hospital Handbook of Internal Medicine
Available at the Health Sciences Library

JAMA Users' Guide to the Medical Literature: A Manual for Evidence-Based Clinical Practice, 3e.

<https://jamaevidence-mhmedical-com.archer.luhs.org/book.aspx?bookID=847&TopLevelContentDisplayName=Books>

JAMA The Rational Clinical Examination: Evidence-Based Clinical Diagnosis

<https://jamaevidence-mhmedical-com.archer.luhs.org/book.aspx?bookID=845&TopLevelContentDisplayName=Books>

The Only EKG Book You Will Ever Need, 9e.

<https://clerkship-lwwhealthlibrary-com.archer.luhs.org/book.aspx?bookid=2345&rotationId=0>