

Overarching Clerkship Objectives For the Clinical Education of Medical Students at UNC

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Clinical Skills

Students will demonstrate a comprehensive approach to the care of patients. Students will obtain, record, analyze and communicate clinical information demonstrating their ability to:

1. Obtain an accurate, comprehensive history from the patient, using collateral sources where indicated
2. Perform a rational, thorough physical exam, including a mental status exam
3. Focus the history and physical exam to the patient's active issues
4. Order basic laboratory and radiologic studies as appropriate and interpret the results of these studies
5. Create a problem list from the history, physical examination and initial laboratory data
6. Prioritize the issues on the problem list
7. Generate an appropriate differential diagnosis for each active problem
8. Generate a patient-oriented assessment and an initial diagnostic and therapeutic plan for each patient's active problems based on information from the history, physical examination, initial laboratory data, the problem list and differential diagnoses considered
9. Present systematic, concise, and coherent written and oral report of the results of the history and physical examination (including assessment and plan)
10. Use medical literature to understand the natural history of diseases and to help plan therapy that addresses the pathophysiology of these diseases
11. Integrate clinical reasoning skills with an ever expanding clinical and basic science knowledge base
12. Use evidence-based medicine and practice-based learning that includes attention to outcomes
13. Use resources to retrieve information, evaluate it, and apply findings to relevant cases demonstrating self-directed and life-long learning skills
14. Use best practices that incorporate knowledge of culture and gender differences in health and disease
15. Communicate effectively with the patients and their families throughout the process
16. Perform appropriately in various clinical settings: ambulatory care, urgent or emergent care settings, inpatient care, or critical care units

Professionalism

Students will demonstrate:

1. Understanding of the experiences of individual patients and an understanding of the impact of health and illness on that individual's experiences
2. Respect, empathy, and sensitivity reflecting that understanding of individuals

3. Behaviors that reflect integrity (e.g. reliability, responsibility, punctuality, accountability, honesty and accuracy)
4. Strong communication skills and develop productive relationships with members of their health care team
5. Understanding of how their own life experiences influence interactions with their patients
6. Understanding of appropriate boundaries in the physician/patient relationship
7. Physician role and behavior, including physician well-being

Other Critical Medical Competencies

Students will complete clinical responsibilities demonstrating comprehension and skill in management of the following crucial issues that cross medical disciplines:

1. Individual, family, social, community, cultural and economic factors that influence care for a given patient, including what physicians need to know and do to provide appropriate care to patients with diverse social, cultural, and economic backgrounds
2. Ethical issues affecting the practice of medicine including informed consent, truth telling, confidentiality, patient autonomy, and managing conflicts of interest.
3. Challenging physician-patient interactions, including history taking (such as the sexual history), discussing risk assessment, counseling, caring for patients who are cognitively impaired or incompetent, witnessing DNR discussions and the delivery of bad news
4. Mind-body interactions in health and disease
5. Patient behavior to promote health and prevent disease
6. Prevention and screening
7. Health care delivery systems including outpatient facilities, community hospitals, physician relationships, multidisciplinary care, referral centers, health departments, and support services
8. Maintaining patients' medical records
9. Health policy and economics topics relevant to the health care system
10. Cost-effective care
11. Health care quality, measurement, and documentation, and improvement
12. Patient safety
13. Legal responsibilities in the work of a physician