

Clerkship: Medicine

Description

The Medicine Clerkship is an active learning experience in which students learn by engaging in the care of patients. The goal of the medicine clerkship is to develop the knowledge, skills, and professional attributes related to the practice of internal medicine. By the end of the course, the student should be able to perform a complete history and physical examination; write orders and notes; develop the problem list, differential diagnosis, diagnostic strategy, and management plan for common medical problems; and interact as a professional with the patient, family, and members of the medical team. The clerkship is an eight-week course taken in the second half of the second year or during the third year of medical school. Students are assigned to inpatient medical services and actively care for patients, under the supervision of faculty and house staff. All students spend four weeks at New York-Presbyterian Hospital/Weill Cornell on General Medicine ward and four weeks either at a Weill Cornell teaching affiliate hospital (NYP-Queens or Houston Methodist Hospital) on General Medicine or on specialty wards at NYP/Cornell, such as Renal, Cardiology, Geriatrics, ICU or at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center on the Breast Oncology or Lymphoma Services. Students in the Medicine Clerkship attend regular, small group tutorials and seminars, as well as teaching rounds, professor's rounds, grand rounds, and house staff teaching conferences.

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the Medicine Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Describe the pathophysiology, epidemiology, etiology, clinical features, laboratory findings, imaging, pathology, and prognosis of diseases commonly encountered in Medicine.
- Perform a complete and focused history and physical examination for patients in Medicine.
- Identify the differential diagnosis and diagnostic approach to commonly presenting signs and symptoms in Medicine.
- Interpret diagnostic and imaging tests for disease states commonly encountered in Medicine.
- Demonstrate skills in diagnostic reasoning and clinical problem-solving, cognizant of ambiguity and uncertainty, and applying the skills of evidence-based medicine.
- Use an evidence-based medicine approach to answer a clinical question.

- Outline preventive and management strategies for disease states commonly encountered in Medicine.
- Write complete and accurate clinical notes.
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the medical team.
- Identify contextual factors that affect care, including psychosocial determinants of health.
- Recognize the limits of one's knowledge and skills, seeking consultation with more experienced physicians or specialists when indicated.
- Apply the principles of patient safety, healthcare quality, and minimizing medical error.
- Identify and respond appropriately to urgencies and emergencies in Medicine.
- Demonstrate a high level of responsibility, including attendance, reliability, accurate reporting, and personal comportment.
- Demonstrate a commitment to self-directed learning by engaging in self-improvement, accepting constructive criticism, and modifying behaviors appropriately.
- Demonstrate professional relationships with patients by establishing rapport, showing sensitivity to patient needs and perspectives, advocacy, and confidentiality.
- Demonstrate professional relationships with colleagues, the healthcare team and systems by showing respect for, and cooperation with, all colleagues, and by using medical records appropriately.
- Apply the principles of nutrition in Medicine.
- Describe how structural determinants of health impact patient outcomes in Medicine.