

## **Clerkship: Primary Care**

### **Description**

We are excited to welcome students to Weill Cornell Medicine's Primary Care Clerkship, a New York-ified Primary Care experience that provides clinical experiences with academic and community-based internists, geriatricians, pediatricians, gynecologists, urgent care and emergency department physicians, dermatologists and other ambulatory care based specialists.

A seminar series will complement the clerkship clinical experience. A half-day session per week (Friday afternoon) has been set aside for students to take part in a didactic series that draws from readings and common primary care topics. This series is not exclusively meant to prepare you for the NBME subject exam, although this is one goal of these sessions; they are also meant to provide a well-rounded introduction to primary care medicine. There is an NBME review session toward the end of the clerkship and we list many other suggested resources to consider using when preparing for the NBME exam on another page of our Canvas site. Please check the Canvas calendar/schedule to confirm the times and zoom links and please check your emails the night before the lectures regarding any last-minute changes in times or topics. Also, please assume you will be busy until 5PM on Friday afternoons and do not make any plans for weekend travel prior to 5PM unless it has been cleared with clerkship leadership.

Tutor group sessions occur on 3 out of the 4 Fridays of the rotation. At these sessions, students present cases to each other and prepare assessments and plans on each other's cases to practice clinical reasoning skills. We hope these sessions also provide an "educational home" for students, allowing opportunities for group learning and reflection.

Students participate in one OSCE, typically on the second Friday of the rotation, which focuses on communication skills and motivational counseling for behavioral change in a patient with cardiovascular risk factors. This OSCE will be completed remotely over zoom, simulated as a telemedicine video visit.

As part of the Primary Care Clerkship, each student will participate in service learning at Stanley Isaacs, a local senior center. On your clinical schedule, you will see a "SL" session. This service-learning experience allows students to meet with community dwelling adults to provide health education and blood pressure monitoring.

One of the fundamental goals in the design of this clerkship has been to ensure an active learning experience for each student. In most clinics, you will not be merely shadowing a resident or attending physician. We ask all preceptors to make every effort possible to allow you to independently evaluate patients and present to a resident and/or attending physician who supervises you. If you find yourself in a purely shadowing experience, we would encourage you both to describe your interest in having a more active role as well as to tell clerkship leadership, who can speak with the preceptor and advocate for the same on your behalf.

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### **Learning Objectives**

By the end of the Primary Care 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 Primary Care.
- Perform a complete and focused history and physical examination for patients in Primary Care.
- Identify the differential diagnosis and diagnostic approach to commonly presenting signs and symptoms in Primary Care.
- Interpret diagnostic and imaging tests for diseases commonly encountered in Primary Care.
- Demonstrate skills in diagnostic reasoning and clinical problem-solving, cognizant of ambiguity and uncertainty, and applying the skills of evidence-based medicine.
- Outline preventive and management strategies for diseases commonly encountered in Primary Care.
- 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 Primary Care.
- 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.
- Describe screening, prevention and counseling for major medical conditions in Primary Care.
- Conduct a functional assessment of a patient, considering activities of daily living and the home environment.
- Apply the principles of nutrition in Primary Care.