

Clerkship: Emergency Medicine

Description

Welcome to the Emergency Medicine Clerkship. Here you will care for and learn about the acutely sick patient (e.g., trauma, sepsis, myocardial infarction, stroke, overdose, cardiac arrest) and the undifferentiated patient (e.g., headache, chest pain, shortness of breath, abdominal pain). You will learn to take a focused history to develop a differential diagnosis and then quickly make decisions on treatment. You will also learn a number of procedural skills (e.g., IV placement, wound closure, abscess drainage, CPR and point of care ultrasound). You will experience the spectrum of emergency care, ranging from pre-hospital care to various levels of acuity in patient care during shifts in the emergency department to telehealth with a comprehensive course in best practices.

This clerkship provides an opportunity to hone your history-taking, physical exam, and procedural skills through direct patient interaction with faculty feedback 24/7. In addition to clinical work, students will participate in a number of self-directed and faculty led training modules to experience the breadth of emergency medicine and a comprehensive training course in advanced communication skills and healthcare delivery with telemedicine.

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Learning Objectives

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

- Identify and respond appropriately to urgencies and emergencies in the Emergency Department. Prioritize initial stabilization actions of a critically ill or injured patient and reassess after each intervention.
- Perform a complete and focused history and physical examination for patients in the Emergency Department.
- Describe the pathophysiology, epidemiology, etiology, clinical features, laboratory findings, imaging, pathology, and prognosis of diseases commonly encountered in Emergency Medicine.
- Identify the differential diagnosis and diagnostic approach to commonly presenting signs and symptoms in the Emergency Department.
- Interpret diagnostic and imaging tests for clinical cases commonly encountered in the Emergency Department.
- Identify contextual factors that affect care, including psychosocial determinants of health.
- Recommend appropriate pharmaceutical agents based upon relevant considerations for patient care in the Emergency Department and understand potential adverse side effects.

- Re-evaluate patients undergoing observation periods in the Emergency Department, and using appropriate data and resources, continually revisit the differential diagnosis, treatment plan, and disposition.
- Perform core technical procedures done in the Emergency Department, and describe their indications, contraindications, and potential complications, including effectively use point of care ultrasound in applicable circumstances in the Emergency Department.
- Demonstrate professional relationships with patients by establishing rapport, showing sensitivity to patient needs and perspectives, advocacy, and confidentiality.
- Communicate effectively with patients, families, and the medical team.
- 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.
- Observe the overall organization of the Emergency Department and its flow, and work closely with ancillary personnel.
- 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.

Upon completion of the telemedicine course incorporated into the Emergency Medicine Clerkship, the student will be able to:

- Describe the evolving importance of telemedicine in the current healthcare environment.
- Demonstrate the fundamentals of video-based complete history taking with a patient.
- Perform a physical exam over video, predicting the limitations of this method and employing alternatives to ensure appropriate information is elicited to make a disposition decision.
- Use advanced communication and professionalism skills in “web-side” manner to build rapport with patients such that trust is established, and post-visit instructions are agreed upon and followed, particularly for patients that require escalation to in-person care.