

Clerkship: Primary Care

Description

Traditionally, the Primary Care Clerkship is a Family Medicine based Clerkship; however, as in the case of many other urban tertiary care institutions, Weill Cornell Medicine does not have a Family Medicine faculty, instead drawing on academic and community based internists, geriatricians, pediatricians and gynecologists, as well as urgent care and emergency department physicians, dermatologists and surgical subspecialists to provide a New York-ified Family Medicine experience.

All students will have most of their clinical work on the Cornell Campus and then travel off-site to New York-Presbyterian network hospitals, Weill Cornell Medicine owned small practices and other affiliated sites. All off-site experiences have been selected specifically based on feedback from prior students that lauded those preceptors' teaching skills, allowances for independent clinical work, and overall educational experience - trust us, the travel time will be worth it.

As part of Weill Cornell Medicine's service learning requirement, all students on this clerkship will also take part in community outreach in the form of blood pressure screenings and community education at weekly health fairs that take place at the Stanley Isaacs Senior Center on Wednesday mornings.

Didactic sessions will take place on Campus Friday mornings and afternoons. Those students who do their clinical rotations at the Cornell Ithaca Campus will video conference in for these didactic sessions.

Although we note that this Clerkship by its very nature involves a varied set of clinical and educational experiences, we have introduced a series of tutor groups that aim to provide a longitudinal thread over the course of the six weeks. At these sessions, students will present their approach to cases that fit the theme of each session and faculty preceptors will provide an "educational home" for the clerkship allowing opportunities for group learning and reflection.

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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.