

Goals & Objectives
PALLIATIVE CARE ROTATION FOR GERIATRIC FELLOWS (OMAHA VA)

I. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

- Fellow will improve skills in symptom management of patients nearing the end of life.
- Fellow will improve his/her skills in developing advance care planning with patients, family members and caregivers.
 - Fellow will learn to deal with conflicts effectively.
- Fellow will learn to fill out death certificates correctly.
- Fellow will develop several 15 minute educational presentations, targeted to colleagues and students, related to end-of-life care. (Topics of their choosing.)
- Fellow will know and be able to apply the Medicare Hospice admission criteria.

II. TEACHING METHODS

1. Didactic sessions covering symptom management, managing family meetings/breaking bad news, pain management, ethical issues encountered in end of life.
2. Robert Buckman videotape(s) are available. Communication Skills in Clinical Practice: A video guide. Robert Buckman, Walter F Baile, Barbara Korsch. Medical Audio Visual Communications, Inc.
3. Patient care rounds
4. Self-directed, as fellow is expected to produce and present at least one 15 minute educational presentation during this rotation.

III. MIX OF DISEASES

Diseases include the spectrum of general internal medicine and geriatric medicine. Most frequently encountered diseases will include cancers, end-stage heart and lung disease as well as multi-system failure.

IV. PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS – All patients during this targeted rotation will be adult veterans; the majority are male.

V. TYPES OF CLINICAL ENCOUNTERS

- Classic inpatient medical consultation
- Outpatient consultation.
- Family and patient care team meetings. (Interdisciplinary)

VI. PROCEDURES AND SERVICES

The fellow will have many opportunities to work with patients, caregivers and family members to identify primary goals of care, perform advance care planning, counseling regarding treatment options, discussion with hospice agencies regarding appropriateness and timeliness of referrals.

VII. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

Chronic pain specialist (PharmD) attends outpatient clinic and provides education regarding pharmacologic approach to pain. Required materials include

1. Palliative Care Perspectives, Hallenbeck JL, Oxford University Press, NY, 2003.
2. CDC web site for education on completing death certificates.
 - http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dvs/red_form.pdf

- http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/misc/hb_cod.pdf (Physician's Handbook on Medical Certification of Death.) Require completion on paper of examples from this handbook.
- 3. Feldman DB, Periyakoil VS. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder at the End of Life. Journal of Palliative Medicine 2006, 9(1): 213-218.
- 4. Annual didactic session on Palliative Care is given as part of the fellow lecture series.

Optional materials:

- 5. Oxford Textbook of Palliative Medicine, 2nd Ed. Doyle D, Hanks GWC, MacDonald N. Oxford University Press, NY, 1998
- 6. UNIPAC: A Self-Study Program. Storey P, Knight CF. Kendall/Hunt Publishing Co, Dubuque, 1998.
- 7. National Association of Medical Examiners web site on completing death certificates:
 - http://thename.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=109&Itemid=58
 - http://thename.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=113&Itemid=58

VIII. METHOD OF EVALUATION OF FELLOWS COMPETENCE

- Direct observation with immediate follow-up
- Review of written records
- Faculty mentor's end of rotation evaluation

IX. TEACHING PERFORMED BY FELLOWS

As members of an interdisciplinary team, fellows are expected to share their knowledge and expertise on end of life problems with the nurse practitioner, social worker, therapists, nurses, dietitian, et al, and with the other students and trainees on the service. The fellow is expected to present at least one 10-15 minute educational presentation (on a palliative care topic) to the other trainees on the service; in addition to informal bedside discussion and training.

Education of family members on health problems, prognosis and advance planning is an important educational function for the fellow.