Goals and Objectives
GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY ROTATION FOR GERIATRIC FELLOWS

ACTIVITIES: Inpatient, nursing home and outpatient management with Geriatric Psychiatrists.

I. EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE

Week 1 Geriatric Assessment

A). Goals and Objectives
1. Understanding the importance of the "functional" approach to patient assessment
2. Familiarity with scales to assess physical function
3. Knowledge of and ability to utilize the scales that assess cognitive function
4. Ability to utilize Geriatric Depression Scale and Clinical Dementia Rating Scale.

B). Means to Achieve Goals
2. Review of handouts from the residents’ orientation packet with instructions for administering the Mini-Mental State Examination and the Geriatric Assessment Center psychiatric consultation examination form.

Week 2 Biopsychosocial Issues in Aging

A). Goals and Objectives
1. Know the major theories of aging mechanisms
2. Realization of specific changes in organ system function with normal aging.
3. Know changing social factors that impact upon the aged.
4. Know psychological aspects of aging, including adaptability, the role of loss, maladaptive patterns of adjustment.

B). Means to achieve goals
2. Rotation handouts provided.

Week 3 Mood Disorders in the Aged

A). Goals and Objectives
1. Know the epidemiology of depression and mania in the aged.
2. Identify psychosocial contributors to depression.
3. Know major medical contributors to mood disorders and their evaluation.
4. Appreciation of the various presentations of mood disorders.
5. Ability to identify and utilize multimodal approaches to treatment of mood disorders including pharmacologic, ECT, psychotherapeutic and social interventions.
6. Be able to distinguish between normal and pathological grief.
7. Know the treatment principles for complicated bereavement and associated psychiatric syndromes

B). Means to achieve goals

Week 4 Dementia and Delirium

A). Goals and Objectives
1. To know the definitions of the 2 syndromes.
2. Knowledge of the major etiologies of dementia and their clinical, historical and pathological correlates and risk factors.
3. Knowledge of the medical evaluation for delirium and the reversible causes of dementia.
4. Knowledge of the available treatment options for Alzheimer’s and vascular dementia, both the primary cognitive process and associated psychiatric symptoms.
5. Appreciation of caregiver issues related to dementia such as education concerning dementia, resources available and the stress of caring for a demented loved one.
6. Knowledge of the epidemiology, common etiologies, associated psychiatric symptoms, treatment options and prognosis of delirium

B). Means to achieve goals:
1. Chapters 2, 16, 17, 18, 19 and 30 in Comprehensive Review of Geriatric Psychiatry 3rd ed.

Week 5 Death/Dying and Bereavement
A). Goals and Objectives
1. Distinguish between normal and complicated grief
2. Know the principles for prevention and treatment of complicated grief.
3. Know the principles of palliative care at the end of life

B). Means to achieve goals:

Week 6  Psychoses in Late Life

A). Goals and Objectives
1. Knowledge of the differential diagnosis for psychotic symptoms in the elderly.
2. Familiarity with the natural history of schizophrenia and delusional disorder with aging.
3. Familiarity with distinguishing characteristics between early-onset and late-onset psychoses.
4. Knowledge of the medical causes for psychotic symptoms in the elderly and their appropriate evaluation.
5. Knowledge of multimodal treatments of psychotic disorders including pharmacologic, psychosocial and psychotherapeutic
6. Knowledge of the major risks and benefits of the antipsychotic medications.

B). Means to achieve goals:
1. Handout

Week 7  Community Resources/Financial Issues

A). Goals and Objectives
1. Familiarity with the economic issues that occur with aging and the impact of cultural issues.
2. Familiarity with the roles of Medicare and Medicaid in financing the health care of the elderly.
3. Familiarity with the various levels of care available for the medically or cognitively impaired elderly.
4. Familiarity with community resources available to the elderly.

B). Means to achieve goals
2. Handout

Week 8

A). A test comprised of 30 questions pertinent to the assigned readings will be administered. A passing score is 24 correct.
B). During the course of the rotation you must satisfactorily complete an observed interview of a geriatric patient. See the enclosed evaluation sheet for those areas that will be observed. This is usually done in the GAC.

II. TEACHING METHODS
Patient management rounds in nursing homes, didactics, assigned readings, role modeling, group discussions, and individual discussions.

III. MIX OF DISEASES
Dementia, delirium, depression, anxiety, psychosis.

IV. PATIENT CHARACTERISTICS
Patients over 65, both men and women.

V. TYPES OF CLINICAL ENCOUNTERS
Outpatient, nursing home visits, possibly acute inpatient visits.

VI. PROCEDURES AND SERVICES
Psychiatric interview, evaluation and management, prescription of behavioral and pharmaco therapy.

VII. EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
Case-based geriatrics review; geriatric psychiatry web based pearl card tutorials on dementia, depression and delirium. See specific reference in I.

VIII. METHOD FOR EVALUATION
Attending geriatric psychiatry staff will complete the geriatric fellow specific evaluation form. Fellows are recommended to complete the geriatric psychiatry section of the “Case Based Geriatrics Review” to evaluate knowledge and supplement learning.

IX. TEACHING PERFORMED BY FELLOWS
Fellows are encouraged to discuss and provide ‘mini lectures’ on medical geriatric syndromes for psychiatry residents and students on this rotation.

(Roccaforte/Potter 5/24/06)