

INTERNAL MEDICINE CLERKSHIPS

Department Head: LCDR Christy Kessock, RN
Rotation Coordinator: LCDR Clayton M. Smiley
Duration: (4-8 Weeks)
Student Level: MS3 or MS4

Report First Day: LCDR Smiley (**IM Inpatient Clerkships and Sub-Internships only**)
Allergy and Immunology Clinic
Charette Health Care Center

Clerkship Description:

Introduction

Clinical clerkships in Internal Medicine are designed to be flexible in an effort to accommodate the needs of a variety of students. The majority of clinical clerks are either Armed Forces Health Profession Scholarship students or Eastern Virginia Medical School students. Responsibilities are individually accorded based on years of training and demonstrated competence.

Inpatient Clerkships

Four inpatient clerkships are available to Health Professions Scholarship Students at any one time. The clerk becomes part of a ward team consisting of an attending, a resident, two–three interns, and one-two medical students. Four teams exist to cover patients on the general medical ward, the hematology-oncology ward, and the step-down unit. This offers an opportunity to diagnose and treat a wide variety of both acute and chronic medical diseases. A separate team with a cardiology attending covers the Cardiac Care Unit and Progressive Care Unit. Each clerk is given responsibility for patient care, which varies with the clerk's previous experience and demonstrated competence. Duties range from performing assigned work-ups to serving as a subintern. The resident or credentialed staff physician must countersign all orders. The clerks stand night watch with the team, averaging one in four nights.

Sub-Internships

A subinternship, available for **fourth year students**, is designed to provide a transition between the student clerkship and internship. The student will assume the responsibilities of an intern in providing comprehensive care to a limited number of patients. The subintern stands a regular night call rotation (usually every fourth night), receives first call for problems with his patient, and works closely with, and under, the direct supervision of the resident in providing patient care.

Conferences

Conference attendance is required of all clerks. Regularly scheduled conferences include morning report at 0730 every day, a didactic session taught by NMCP faculty at noon on Monday through Thursday, and the Visiting Professor Series during which authorities from a variety of academic institutions deliver a lecture Friday at 0730 and/or 1300. In addition, each subspecialty branch maintains individual conferences and rounding schedules.

Educational Goals

- A. To develop proficiency in delivering comprehensive patient care according to the most current approved standards of care.
- B. To develop appropriate professional attitudes and behavior (Integrity, respect, compassion, collegiality, professional responsibility, etc.).
- C. To develop the knowledge base and diagnostic/therapeutic skills needed in the care of general medical inpatients:
 1. To be able to diagnose and manage acute medical problems and complications in the inpatient setting.

- 2. To develop necessary procedural skills.
- D. To develop appropriate managerial skills and knowledge base as applicable to each level of responsibility, as described in the departmental Standard Operation Procedure Manual.
- E. To develop skills in establishing therapeutic physician-patient relationships in the inpatient setting.
- F. To develop understanding of the cultural, socioeconomic, ethical, occupational, environmental and behavioral features of illness, and their impact on other aspects of life.
- G. To learn how to give and receive feedback.

Evaluation/Feedback

At the midpoint of the rotation the attending should perform an informal verbal evaluation. Formal written evaluations are completed at the end of the rotation. The form is provided by the rotator's institution.