

Clinical Decision Unit Medical Student Elective Rotation

PURPOSE

- Expose medical students to observation medicine
- Start to develop evidence-based clinical skills in assessment, treatment and discharge planning of intensive short-term observation patients
- Learn how care plans across other physician providers are coordinated

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Patient Care

- Learn what types of ED conditions are observation unit appropriate
- Learn how observation-specific complaints are managed
- Learn how care amongst specialty providers, social workers and case management is coordinated to achieve disposition within 24 hours

2. Medical Knowledge

- Diagnose and treat common observation conditions
- Recognize the need for appropriate subspecialty involvement in complex cases

3. Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- Utilize available resources to make timely and appropriate diagnostic and management decisions
- Identify and apply hospital system and evidence-based clinical guidelines in the diagnosis and management of patients
- Use information technology to manage patient-specific information

4. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- Demonstrate effective communication skills and strategies in facilitating patient care within the health care system
- Provide effective and efficient sign-outs to other CDU physicians
- Direct discharge planning to maximize patient safety and well-being in the transition to the out-patient setting including appropriate correspondence with outpatient providers, social work and case management/discharge planner

5. Professionalism

- Demonstrate respect and compassion through interaction with other health care professionals, patients and their families
- Communicate succinctly to consultants, outpatient providers and other team members about patient care issues
- Advocate for their patients within the healthcare system, demonstrating sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender and disabilities

6. Systems-Based Practice

- Demonstrate an understanding of the complexity of directing effective patient-centered care in a hospital system
- Gain familiarity in the billing process for observation admissions and discharges
- Perform discharge paperwork and discharge summaries as required

HOW LEARNING OBJECTIVES ARE MET

- Work both in the ED and CDU. Most shifts in the CDU; ≤ 4 shifts in the ED
- Students will be supervised by an attending CDU physician and by an attending ED physician during the ED shifts. Primary responsibility will be management of 4-8 observation patients; ED shifts will be in the ED/resuscitation area.
- A one-on-one lecture with the CDU Medical Director on specific Observation Medicine topics 2 times per week
- Medical literature covering topics pertaining to observation medicine; a packet will be provided prior to starting the rotation
- Students will be given a pre-test and post-test on Observation Medicine topics

