

Dear Student,

Welcome to year IV and the ambulatory rotation in Internal Medicine. We are about to begin a new academic year, and as you know, we are constantly revising courses to ensure that they are consistent with our goals of curricular innovation and refinement of our performance measures. What this means is that we are going to change the look of the ambulatory experience in the outpatient setting by being matched with busy clinicians who have consistently received strong evaluations from previous students. You should expect to mimic the hours that the preceptor is spending in the office. This is not a “light” month, where time can be taken away as you see fit. This is not a designated month for interviews, completing other medical school obligations, chores, etc. There are a limited number of hours for you to grasp the basic principles of Internal Medicine in the outpatient setting. The vast majority of surveys of students suggest that in a month of ambulatory, the essential competencies can be taught and learned.

The specific curriculum for the course, as with year III, continues to be the material found on the SGIM/CDIM curricular site. This can be found at www.im.org. You should:

1. Click on CDIM (at the top of the home page)
2. Go to Educational Tools
3. Click on the curricular site

There you will find the material, defined by knowledge, skills and aptitude that pertain to year III Internal Medicine, the sub-internship and the ambulatory block. All students should read the specific material regarding healthy patients as well as all of the training problems except for that pertaining to fluid, electrolyte and acid-base disorders.

This year, we will be taking some things away from the outpatient month, and adding others. We are asking that you work with the computer assisted instructionals available online at www.medcases.com. You have already had some experience with this website through the Department of Surgery.

You will need to:

1. Click on to Academic Programs (the access code is wsu)
2. Log In
3. Go to Internal Medicine Cases for Wayne State University
4. Go through the case
5. Click on Your Results and print the transcript
6. Send your transcript and Student Learning Survey to the Medicine Office.

There are twenty cases that are consistent with an outpatient agenda. These cases are numbers: 397, 416, 446, 450, 451, 473, 480, 489, 493, 494, 495, 501, 515, 549, 554, 562, 564, 582, 588 and 607. You only need to complete ten of these cases in order to receive full credit. This will be a requirement for completion of this clerkship. You will continue to be assessed by the preceptor utilizing the generic WSU evaluation form. We will also continue to survey your experience with our comprehensive evaluation form that should be turned in at the end of your rotation with your transcript.

An additional component of this clerkship is the End of Life seminar series. These seminars are designed to refine your skills in advanced communication skills, pain management, prognostication and rational decision making about potentially difficult situations that often arise when dealing with patients with terminal illness. You will meet each Tuesday afternoon at 1:00 in the University Health Center Crockett classrooms. The first seminar each month is in Crockett B. If you have a conflict with these seminar times, please notify Dr. Michael Stellini (mstellini@med.wayne.edu).

All of the above changes, we certainly hope, will improve the overall opportunity that you will have to consolidate the basic information presented in year III. We will depend on your assessments of the experience to demonstrate that we have indeed achieved this goal. As usual, if you have any questions or suggestions, please let me know.

Sincerely,

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