

Dear Student,

Welcome to the sub-internship rotation in internal medicine. Historically, this has been a month where students were given the loose directive to “act like an intern” for a month, with the experience being residency program directed only. The School of Medicine has had little input into the month, other than asking for an evaluation form to be completed at the end of the rotation by the senior resident and attending. There have not been formal evaluative tools developed for the sub-I. As these acting internships have developed over the last several years, there has been a mandate to bring more structure to the block rotation. Some of this mandate has come from the accrediting body of the AAMC, but a good deal of it comes from institutional recognition that we need to offer more substance in terms of curriculum and evaluation in order to offer a better educational experience.

The Clerkship Directors in Internal Medicine (CDIM) has produced a sub-internship curriculum, and is currently completing adjunct teaching resources for that curriculum. This was done in an effort to standardize the experience across the country. The curriculum is up and running, and is to be found at www.im.org/CDIM. You will be expected to use that curricular material as your chief guide throughout the month. You must read it in its entirety (which is very manageable), and then use whatever resources you need or prefer to expand on that curricular material.

Additionally, your School of Medicine has formed a sub-internship committee in an effort to establish some standards across the sub-internships offered by other departments (surgery, family medicine and pediatrics). While each of these departments has their own unique goals and objectives, there are competencies that are universal. We have summarized them in the form of the document accompanying this letter. We will be working, during this academic year, to develop an assessment tool to measure how well we are delivering the knowledge, skills and attitudes we value as a committee of sub-internship directors.

To complement the curricular material that you now will have, we are asking, for the first time in the sub-internship, that the Medcases website be accessed, and that you complete the following ten cases:

393, 398, 402, 445, 451, 460, 462, 472, 487 and 607.

These cases are all reflective of the type of experiences you will have. By working through them, it compounds any other exposures you may have had, and occasionally it may serve as the only exposure you will have, since we all know that any given medical disorder you could see during a fleeting glimpse in time (a one month rotation) can be hit or miss. The completion of these cases will be considered mandatory for completeness of the sub-internship.

Finally, please remember that your success in this rotation comes fundamentally from the skills that you have established as self-directed learners. The initiatives set above come from the work of many people locally and nationally that have as their main interest the improvement of the sub-internship experience as a way of producing better doctors for our country.

IN SUMMARY:

- 1) Use the sub-internship curriculum as the guide to your clinical experience this month. Specifically, go to www.im.org/CDIM. Click on Educational tools, scroll to curricula and go to the internal medicine sub-internship curriculum. There you will find the sub-internship curriculum, which you must read. You have the option, if you wish, to also visit the category just below the curriculum called training problems. There you will find a series of case-based questions under the title “student guide”, which were developed to support the curricular material. To get the answers, simply go to “teachers guide”, once you have completed a case. While this latter task is at your discretion, we would appreciate any comments you might have regarding the usefulness of those cases, since they are still being refined.
- 2) Read the short document accompanying this letter that outlines the broad competencies independent of department.
- 3) Do the Medcases. Turn them in to the Department of Internal Medicine (Shirley Kmetz in 2-E, UHC) or, if you wish, to myself at the Department of Internal Medicine at Sinai-Grace Hospital.
- 4) There will be a survey that you will fill out at the end of the rotation, and also turn in to the department.

If you have any questions, concerns or comments about the sub-internship, please feel free to contact me.

Joel Appel, D.O.
Director Subinternship Programs
Department of Internal Medicine
Wayne State University School of Medicine
Office phone (313) 966-4946
Office fax (313) 966-1738
jappel@med.wayne.edu