

ELECTIVE NAME:

Medical Critical Care

COURSE NO:

MED 628

PREREQUISITE:

Required Medicine Clerkship

INSTITUTION:

Spectrum Health Butterworth
Spectrum Health Blodgett

DESCRIPTION:

The Medical Critical Care rotation for the medical student is an excellent opportunity to see, examine, discuss, and treat severely ill patients. The degree of knowledge and experience gained at the end of the rotation is directly related to the amount of effort the student puts into the rotation. Being available in the unit, working closely with the medical house staff, being willing to accept patients for evaluation and workup, looking up references regarding sicknesses their patients may have, attending the didactic lectures, staying after hours with the medical house staff, acquiring expert skills and diagnosis, and performing the procedures can be achieved with this rotation.

The Medical Critical Care rotation at Spectrum Butterworth is a unique arrangement utilizing a team approach. Each month, a rotating team consisting of a pulmonologist and a cardiologist round together in the Intensive Care Unit with the assigned house staff and medical students. Patients may be under the direct control of this critical care team or may be seen on a consultation basis only.

Special effort has been taken that the house staff rotating on a critical care service have primary responsibility for patient care procedures and record keeping, including patients' daily order writing.

Other sub specialists who are available and are consulted frequently evaluate complicated medical problems outside the fields of Pulmonology and Cardiology. This core attending team is available at all times, 24 hours a day, and weekends.

The primary goal of the medical critical care rotation is to provide the rotating house staff with primary patient control experience. The number of admissions and consultations to the service are usually more than adequate. The opportunity to see and deal with complex medical problems is frequent. Since statistically most medical intensive care patients concern primary cardiac and pulmonary systems, the main crux of the intensive care rotation is well supported by the attending staff.

Besides teaching, examination is a unique feature of this rotation. Daily review of the patients' symptoms, physical exams, and laboratory data, including EKGs and chest x-rays, are part of the daily rounds. When complex procedures are performed, such as bronchoscopy and Echocardiography, the house staff is requested to be present for their review.

EVALUATION:

Preceptor(s) will be asked to submit a written evaluation at the conclusion of the clerkship. Faculty are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback throughout elective rotations.