

**ELECTIVE:**

Hospice - Palliative Care/End of Life Curriculum

**COURSE NO:**

FMP 618

**PREREQUISITE:**

Completion of all required medical clerkships of Family Medicine, Pediatrics, Medicine, Psychiatry, Surgery, and Obstetrics/Gynecology. Medical student must be in good standing with educational program.

**INSTITUTION:**

Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE #300 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

**OBJECTIVE:**

The curriculum as designed will provide the medical student with a comprehensive base of knowledge and skills necessary to manage patients and families faced with an end of life illness. Lectures are given longitudinally at the medical school, nursing school, residency grand rounds, and various hospital medical staff meetings, and are designed to address basic issues surrounding end of life issues including: pathophysiology of the dying process; attitudes of the medical community as well as the community at large; ethical issues surrounding end of life; national trends in dying and palliative care; symptom management, including pain and non-pain symptoms; and communication issues. The elective rotations and preceptorship components described below will provide clinical opportunities for the resident to interact with (and in some cases, follow longitudinally) patients and families at the end of life.

**Educational Aims:**

The goal of the Family Medicine Palliative Care/End of Life elective is to have the student demonstrate the following skills:

1. Care at end of life.
2. Integrating the continuum of palliative medicine.
3. Measuring quality at end of life.
4. Planning for death and dying.
5. Essentials of pain management.
6. Non-pain symptom management.
7. Ethical issues in death and dying.

**Didactic Lectures:**

Lectures in topics related to end of life care and palliative medicine will be offered on a rotating basis, such that students may have exposure to all of the topics within a 2 year period. It is expected that the student will attend lectures offered during their rotation experience. Additionally, a compendium of relevant articles and publications relating to appropriate topics will be provided to the student as required reading.

### **Lecture titles (not inclusive):**

The Essence of Care at the End of Life (1-3 hours)

Integrating the Continuum of Palliative Medicine in Chronic and Terminal Disease (1 hour)

Measuring Quality at the End of Life (1 hour)

The Importance of Planning for Death and Dying (0.5 hour)

The Essentials of Pain Management (2 hours) Non-Pain Symptom Management (4 hours)

Management of the Pediatric Patient at the End of Life (2 hours)

Communication at the End of Life (1 hour)

Ethical Issues in Death and Dying (variable)

Case Studies in End of Life Care (variable)

### **Elective Rotation**

A month-long rotation in hospice and palliative care is available through Faith Hospice. In this experience, the student will manage an inpatient hospice caseload, including admission work-up in the facility and rounding on a daily basis. He/she will become expert in understanding the dying process, evaluating terminal patients, managing pain and non-pain symptoms, communicating with patients and families regarding end of life issues, and working within an interdisciplinary team. He/she will have responsibility for representing the medical component at interdisciplinary team meetings (under physician supervision). The outpatient experience of the rotation will involve home visits on a weekly basis, including visits with nurses, chaplains, and social workers. The resident will participate in an on-call rotation, covering both residential and home-based patients ("first call" with physician back up). Supervision will be provided by the Faith Hospice medical director (or designee). Creative structure in the development of the clinical rotation can allow the student to participate in clinical activities on weekends or on specific days stretched longitudinally over several months. The student will be evaluated by the medical director (or designee) on the basis of observed behavior and accomplishments during the month.

### **EVALUATION AND GRADING:**

Pass/Fail. The precepting physicians, to whom the student was assigned, completes the standard Clinical Performance Evaluation form.

Each student will also be required to select an area of palliate care/end of life to investigate. A thorough review of the literature and a written paper or oral presentation is mandatory.

A summary of the student's performance is sent to the student in a form of a letter written by the Associate Chair for Academic Affairs in the Department of Family Medicine, MSU. A copy of the letter is sent to the community administrator and to the student's file