

ELECTIVE NAME:

Emergency Medicine

COURSE NO:

HM 630

INSTITUTION:

Spectrum Health—Butterworth and Helen DeVos Children's Hospital

OBJECTIVE:

This elective introduces the principals, practice, and procedures of Emergency Medicine. Upon completion of this rotation, students will have acquired a basic approach to the undifferentiated patient, with an emphasis on identifying or excluding emergent and urgent conditions. They will have opportunities to increase their proficiency with many of the following procedures commonly carried out in the ED: starting peripheral IV lines, placing splints, suturing, I&D of soft tissue skin abscesses, pelvic examinations, placement of Foley catheters, and lumbar puncture; other procedures may be available on a less consistent basis. Guidance will be provided on how to perform a problem-focused history and physical, generate a differential diagnosis including urgent and emergent conditions, and then generate a management plan and follow-through on this plan until appropriate final patient disposition has been made. Students will also gain an understanding of how the ED interacts with other departments and specialties. Student patient care will be supervised by Emergency physicians with a faculty appointment in the College of Human Medicine. All Emergency Medicine Elective Clerkship rotations must be organized and directed by a clerkship director approved by the Executive Committee of the Division of Emergency Medicine.

DESCRIPTION:

Every site that offers the Emergency Medicine elective will deliver a unique experience based on local strengths. The description below, however, describes the core curriculum available to all students taking the elective.

Clinical exposure is provided during scheduled shifts in the ED during which students will have the opportunity to perform the initial evaluation of undifferentiated patients presenting for evaluation. Students will then present patients to a supervising attending physician or upper level resident, followed by discussion of a management plan. Students will be asked to actively participate in following through on the components of the management plan.

This clinical exposure will total 120 hours during the rotation (e.g. 15 eight hour shifts or 12 ten hour shifts), with exceptions made for campuses with very low clinical volumes, to allow for an adequate number of patient exposures. These clinical hours may include one or two "tech" shifts during which students will focus on performing basic procedures (IV, Foley, EKG, cardiac monitoring, splinting) under the supervision of ancillary staff; students will be required to maintain a procedure log.

Students will be assigned selected readings from an introductory textbook in Emergency Medicine (Mahadevan and Garmel). They will also be provided patient case scenarios with questions associated with the assigned reading that will be reviewed in small discussion groups facilitated by an attending or upper level resident. There will be a minimum of six hours of such student-oriented didactic teaching during the rotation.

The number of weekend and midnight shifts required will be at the discretion of each campus with one exception: all students will have at least one weekend off. Schedule requests are due at least one month prior to the start of the rotation. Students may request one weekend and two week days off. Additional requests and requests made after the deadline will be considered on an individual basis, but are not guaranteed. Two additional days may be requested for residency interviews; documentation of these interviews must be made available upon request.

EVALUATION:

Upon completion of the clerkship, students are to complete and turn in their completed evaluation form(s) of the clerkship. Preceptors are expected to submit a written evaluation of each student at the conclusion of the clerkship. Preceptors are encouraged to provide ongoing feedback to the student throughout the rotation.