

Curriculum on Endocrine Danbury Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program

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A. Educational Purpose and Goals

Endocrinology, Diabetes, and Metabolism (hereafter called Endocrinology) while focused on specific endocrine organs, affects the entire body including organs and systems not usually considered "endocrine." The conditions or diseases seen by endocrinologist can mimic disorders seen by all specialties and subspecialties. The patients will be community acquired and hospital consultations and additional value will be observing experienced endocrinologist's approach to diagnostic and therapeutic dilemmas. The relation of endocrine testing and treatment to costs, prevention, and prognosis will be part of patients' evaluations by the resident. The faculty will mentor residents aiming for Fellowship. The residents at all levels will be expected to participate in all the clinical activities of the section. Therefore, we include inpatient consultations at Danbury Hospital and consultative referrals in the office. Participation in the endocrine clinic with followup of both inpatients and outpatients. The resident will attend several sessions in the isotope section to gain insight into use of diagnostic and therapeutic radioiodine. They will be invited to attend the weekly endocrine conferences of the Endocrine Section at Yale University School of Medicine, and they will be required to attend and present at the monthly journal club in the department at Danbury Hospital. A block elective in endocrinology at Yale may be taken for 1 month. This is especially important for residents planning to apply for fellowships in endocrinology. Residents will be present as an observer at the frequent fine needle-aspiration sessions in the office, utilizing ultrasound.

B. Teaching Methods

Patient management discussions.
Conferences specific to rotation.
Individual instruction in examination pertinent to endocrinology and procedures.
Interdisciplinary rounds (pathology, laboratory medicine).
Review of diagnostic studies including nuclear medicine and radiology.

C. Educational Content

Mix of Diseases/ Patient characteristics/Clinical Encounters

Refer to the Core Competencies

Procedures and services/ Reading lists, other educational resources

Nuclear medicine studies; radiologic imaging of endocrine glands.

Handouts on relevant topics.
Group discussion of significant cases.
Articles from the literature.
Assignments of case reports were researched or other research endeavors for publication.

D. Method of Evaluation of Faculty and Resident Competence

After each block rotation faculty provide a review of the resident's competency based performance on Evaluate. In turn the resident evaluates the faculty's performance as well as the rotational experience. These evaluations are reviewed during our biannual House staff evaluation committee meetings.

- Evaluation of residency performance and professionalism
- Evaluation of attending teaching skills and other attributes
- Rotation assessment by resident
- Observation of resident's clinical competency
- Observation of resident's leadership and teaching skills
- Review of the resident's history/physical exam, progress notes and documentation of procedures in the chart
- Resident's attendance of rounds and conferences monitored

E. Rotation Specific Competency Objectives

Please refer to the Core Curriculum for the expected General Medicine Curriculum core competency objectives and graded responsibilities.

Patient care:

1. Be exposed to a wide variety of inpatient and office consultative endocrine conditions, and their diagnostic management problems in both adults and adolescents.
2. They will be expected to read, and are given specific core material about frequently encountered endocrine problems as well as the particular problem of the patient under discussion.
3. They will be mentored in the interpretation of thyroid ultrasounds and iodine and parathyroid scans, and introduced to the meaning of bone mineral density reports.

Medical Knowledge:

1. They will be given instruction in the basic principles of endocrine function and be quizzed about this.
2. They will be expected to understand the principles of endocrinology such as releasing factors, feedback loops, hormone receptors, hypothalamic/pituitary stimulation and suppression testing.
3. They will be instructed, including reading material, on autoimmune aspects of endocrine diseases and multiple endocrine neoplasias.
4. Other areas of emphasis will be thyroid physiology and pathophysiology, diabetes mellitus, adrenal diseases, calcium homeostasis and diseases of control of calcium, lipidemias, gonadal physiology, health and disease, and endocrine

aspects of HIV diseases.

Practice-Based Learning:

1. Residents will perform literature searches, read textbooks and journal articles pertinent to endocrine cases they see on the service.
2. They will also systematically examine referred patients suspected of having an endocrine abnormality, and be alerted to recognize subtle signs and symptoms related to endocrine excesses or deficiencies.
3. They will be mentored in interpreting laboratory tests related to endocrine diseases, in particular subtleties inherent in physiologic ranges of "normal" values. See Core Competencies also.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills: See Core Competencies.

Professionalism: See Core Competencies.

System-Based Practices: See Core Competencies.

F. Strengths and Weaknesses

The endocrinology service patients have a rich mix of pathological states, ethnic background, and family and personal histories. Members of the endocrine service also see pediatric endocrine cases and these will be seen also, when appropriate, by the rotating resident. A significant strength is mentoring residents preparing to apply for endocrine fellowships. These residents usually take maximum rotation time at our department and at Yale. In association with the endocrine clinics, a wide variety of socioeconomic backgrounds, languages, psychological characteristics are encountered. The residents preparing for fellowship in endocrinology are mentored to participate in research projects leading to presentation and publications. A list of recent endocrine fellowships obtained by our graduates include Joslin Clinic, Mayo Clinic, Cleveland Clinic, SUNY Downstate, Arizona University Medical Center, NIH.