

Curriculum on Neurology

Danbury Hospital Internal Medicine Residency Program

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A. Educational Purpose and Goals

The neurology elective allows the PGY-1/2/3 to participate in the active inpatient service of the Section of Neurology. The service sees patients in the emergency room as well as on general medical, surgical, obstetrical, pediatric, and psychiatric floors. The rotation also includes seeing outpatients in the Adult Outpatient Clinic. They are also a member of the stroke team and will attend performance improvement meetings on their rotation. The main goal of the rotation is to teach the resident the approach to a wide array of acute as well as chronic neurological diseases including their diagnosis and management.

B. Teaching Methods

1. Attending teaching rounds
2. Multi-disciplinary stroke rounds
3. Small group discussions
4. Individual instructions of procedures
5. Bedside clinical rounds
6. Review of diagnostic studies, including radiology
7. Monthly neurology lectures and bi-monthly neuroscience conferences.
8. Monthly Performance Improvement conferences

C. Educational Content

1. Mix of Diseases

Patients with common Neurologic disease states will be evaluated.
Wide mix of general neurology cases, with concentration in cerebrovascular diseases and seizure disorders.

2. Patient characteristics

Pediatric, adolescent, adult, elderly

3. Types of clinical encounters

Consultations

Inpatient

Outpatient

Observation Unit

Emergency Dept.

Clinic

Intensive Care Unit

Stroke rounds (interdisciplinary)

Follow-ups

4. Procedures and services
 - Lumbar Puncture
 - EEG
 - EMG
 - Video EEG
5. Reading lists, other educational resources
 1. Grand rounds
 2. Morning report
 3. Monthly neurology lectures and bi-monthly neuroscience conferences.
 4. Monthly stroke center Performance Improvement conferences
 5. Stroke rounds
 6. Online databases and articles

D. Method of Evaluation of Resident Competence

1. Resident and Faculty Performance

The attending neurologists who worked directly with the resident during their rotation will confer to evaluate their performance and feedback will be provided at the end of the rotation. These evaluations will be available on Evaluate. The resident will also be able to provide feedback about the faculty members performance and the rotation on Evaluate.

E. Rotation Specific Competency Objectives

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

1. Patient Care

Residents must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. Residents are expected to be active members of the consult team. This will include initial evaluation of inpatient consults as well as seeing adult outpatients in the Adult Outpatient Clinic under the direct supervision of the attending neurologist. Night call and weekend call is not expected.

- Perform a comprehensive neurological evaluation and exam
- Gain exposure to patients with a variety of common neurological diseases and develop competence in their diagnosis and management
- Perform lumbar spinal taps
- Develop increasing independence in neurological patient evaluation and management

- Learn to develop an appropriate differential diagnosis and plan an appropriate work-up for the patient
- Learn performance improvement techniques through the stroke center.

2. Medical Knowledge

Residents must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. Residents are expected to:

- Interpret the findings of the neurological exam
- Interpret lumbar spinal tap results
- Interpret MRI/CT scan results
- Interpret EEG results
- Understand the pathophysiology of common neurological disorders

3. Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and teaming with patients, their families and professional associates. Residents are expected to:

- Communicate effectively with patients and families across a broad range of socioeconomic and cultural backgrounds
- Communicate effectively with physicians, other health professionals, and health related agencies

4. Professionalism

Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Residents are expected to demonstrate:

- Compassion, integrity, and respect for others
- Responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest
- Interact with patients, their family, and colleagues in a compassionate, professional and respectful manner

5. Practice Based Learning

Resident must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning. Residents are expected to:

- Identify strengths, deficiencies and limits in one's knowledge and expertise
- Locate, appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patient's health problems
- Seek out and use the medical literature appropriately for patient care

6. Systems Based Practice

Residents must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care.

Residents are expected to:

- Incorporate considerations of cost awareness and risk-benefit analysis in patient care
- Work in multidisciplinary teams to enhance patient safety and improve patient care quality
- Chose follow-up tests and further consultations appropriately
- Participate in multidisciplinary stroke rounds with physiatrists; physical, occupational, and speech therapists; and case managers.
- Attend stroke center performance improvement conferencies and participate in system changes to improve outcomes. They will be expected to communicate with their fellow residents regarding implementation of stroke pathways.