

Clerkship Goals and Objectives

The format for this listing of goals and objectives for the Pediatrics Clerkship is modeled after the ACGME Core Competencies (Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, and Systems-Based Practice).

The goals listed for each competency mirror the goals stated in the Graduation Competencies for Drexel University College of Medicine.

The instructional strategies for the following objectives include: supervised clinical experiences, online virtual patient cases, bedside teaching rounds, and didactic sessions/case conferences. Clinical skills and medical knowledge are assessed through direct clinical observation, student completion of the clinical passport, and faculty/resident completion of DUCOM evaluation forms. Medical knowledge is also assessed through the NBME subject examination in Pediatrics.

I. PATIENT CARE

Goal: Students must be able to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Gather essential and accurate information about their patients.
 - Compare and contrast components of the history obtained for different types of visits (first visit, acute care, and health supervision).
 - Determine when it is appropriate to obtain a complete medical history vs. a focused or interval history
 - Describe how to modify the interview depending on the age of the child with particular attention given to the following age groups: toddler/preschooler, school-aged child, and adolescent, including when to address questions to child versus parent
 - Conduct the interview in a manner that is sensitive to the age of the child and the social and cultural context.
 - Identify the primary concerns of the patient and/or family
 - Obtain the following information from the child or accompanying adult:
 - Neonatal/birth history, Immunization history, Growth and development, Nutritional history, Family history, Social history, Environmental and Safety history
 - Conduct a physical exam appropriate to the nature of the visit and the age of the patient and be sensitive to confidentiality, privacy, and modesty during the exam.

2. Make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up to date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment.
 - Interpret history and physical exam findings based on the age of child
 - Develop a complete problem list and prioritize problems, taking into account the child's age
 - Create a sufficiently broad initial differential diagnosis for each problem
 - Outline an initial evaluation and choose appropriate lab tests
 - Interpret the results of the tests recognizing the age-appropriate values
 - Describe the most common treatments for the final diagnosis

3. Counsel and educate patients and their families
 - Effectively communicate information about the diagnosis and treatment to the patient and family
 - Recognize the important role of patient education in treatment of acute and chronic illness, and prevention of disease.
4. Use information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education.
5. Provide health care services aimed at preventing health problems or maintaining health.
6. Work with other health care professionals, including those from other disciplines, to provide patient-focused care.

II. MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Goal: Students must demonstrate knowledge about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of structure and function of major organ systems in the context of health and disease.
2. Describe common pediatric disease entities (see core topic list), including their characteristic signs and symptoms, etiology, epidemiology, and pathophysiology.
3. Identify social, economic, psychological, and cultural factors that contribute to health and disease.
4. Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the following areas:
 - Health supervision through all pediatric age groups
 - Growth and development throughout the pediatric and adolescent periods
 - Behavior issues particular to the various stages of development
 - Nutritional issues throughout the pediatric and adolescent age periods
 - Issues of safety and prevention
5. Demonstrate analytic thinking and clinical reasoning to interpret data and develop a differential diagnosis.

III. INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS

Goal: Students must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their patients families, and professional associates.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Communicate effectively and demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors when interacting with pediatric patients of varying ages and their families.
2. Use communication techniques that enable development of a therapeutic alliance with the patient and family, being sensitive to the unique social condition and cultural background of the family
3. Discuss medical information in terms understandable to patients and their families
4. Avoid overuse of medical jargon and be able to effectively explain medical terminology to patients and families
5. Organize a case presentation to accurately reflect the chronology of the history, the details of the physical findings, the differential diagnosis and the suggested initial evaluation.
6. Clearly explain the thought process that led to the differential and primary diagnosis and therapeutic plan.
7. Communicate effectively with physicians, other health care professionals, and health-related agencies.
8. Document medical information accurately and timely in the medical record.

IV. PROFESSIONALISM

Goal: Students must demonstrate adherence to ethical principles, development of physician attributes, and a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Demonstrate respect for patient, parent, and family attitudes, behaviors and lifestyles, with particular attention to cultural, ethnic, and socioeconomic influences.
2. Demonstrate honesty, integrity, reliability and responsibility in all interactions with patients, families, colleagues, and other professional contacts.
3. Demonstrate behaviors and attitudes that promote the best interest of patients and families and that supersede self-interest.
4. Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, and informed consent.
5. Demonstrate a positive attitude and regard for education by demonstrating intellectual curiosity, initiative, academic integrity, and willing acceptance of feedback.

V. PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING AND IMPROVEMENT

Goal: Students must be able to investigate and evaluate their approach to patient care, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and continuously improve patient care based on self-evaluation and life-long learning.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Identify strengths and weaknesses in knowledge and skills based on critical reflection and self-evaluation.

2. Seek out opportunities and self-directed learning activities to strengthen deficits.
3. Demonstrate maturity in soliciting, accepting, and acting on feedback in an effort to effectively make improvements.
4. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
5. Use information technology to access online medical information, support patient care decisions, enhance their own education, and facilitate the learning of colleagues and other health care professionals.

VI. SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

Goal: Students 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.

Objectives:

During this rotation, students are expected to:

1. Work collaboratively in inter-professional teams to enhance the quality of patient care.
2. Identify available community resources beneficial in caring for pediatric patients.