



Edward Via College of Osteopathic Medicine

4th Year Clinical Rotation: Palliative Medicine

MED 8400: Elective Clinical Rotation I MED 8401: Elective Clinical Rotation I
 Elective Clinical Rotation I MED 8410: Elective Clinical Rotation II MED 8411: Elective Clinical Rotation II
 Elective Clinical Rotation II MED 8420: Elective Clinical Rotation III MED 8421: Elective Clinical Rotation III
 MED 8430: Elective Clinical Rotation IV MED 8431: Elective Clinical Rotation IV

COURSE SYLLABUS

Chair	Contact Information
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I. Rotation Description

Hospice and Palliative Medicine are devoted to achieving the best possible quality of life for patients and their families while facing a life-threatening illness. The goals of Hospice and Palliative Medicine are realized through relief of suffering and control of symptoms throughout the course of illness. The practice of palliative medicine requires comprehensive age-appropriate assessment of the patient and family and an interdisciplinary approach to care that can address physical, psychosocial, social and spiritual needs. Hospice and Palliative Medicine helps the patient and family manage advanced illness and the prospect of death, assured that comfort will be a priority, values and decisions will be respected, spiritual and psychosocial needs will be addressed, practical support will be available and opportunities for growth and closure will exist.

II. Rotation Goals

- a. Understand the following concepts:
 1. Ethical and legal decision making
 2. Managing pain in cancer and non-cancer patients
 3. Management of non-pain symptoms
 4. Medical co-morbidities and complications in populations with life-threatening diseases
 5. Neuro-psychiatric co-morbidities in populations with life-threatening diseases
 6. Psychosocial and spiritual support
 7. Death and dying
 8. Bereavement support for the family
 9. Quality improvement and research methodology in populations with advanced illnesses
- b. Demonstrate competency in the ability to:
 1. Describe the epidemiology, natural history and treatment options for patients of all ages with common chronic diseases and life threatening medical conditions
 2. Describe the history of the development of the disciplines of hospice and palliative medicine
 3. Demonstrate an understanding of the role, function and development of the interdisciplinary team and its component disciplines in the practice of palliative care and hospice

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4. Describe the pharmacodynamics of commonly used agents. Understand that hospice uses some medications for off-label uses
 5. Demonstrate an understanding of the ethical and legal aspects of palliative care in patients of all ages
 6. Demonstrate an understanding of cultural aspects of palliative including issues relating to geographical location (urban vs. rural), ethnicity and socioeconomic status
 7. Demonstrate an understanding of grief and bereavement and the role of the interdisciplinary team in providing support to bereaved families.
- c. Competently perform the following clinical skills:
1. Perform age-appropriate comprehensive assessment including physical, cognitive, functional, social, psychological and spiritual domains using history, examination and appropriate laboratory evaluation. Assessment of suffering and quality of life should be included.
 2. Manage common co-morbidities and complications in patients with life-threatening illnesses
 3. Manage neuro-psychiatric co-morbidities in patients with life-threatening illnesses
 4. Manage symptoms in hospice patients utilizing various pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic modalities
 5. Manage palliative care emergencies such as spinal cord compression and suicidal ideation
 6. Manage the psychosocial, social and spiritual issues involved in hospice and palliative care
 7. Provide care for the dying patient including managing terminal symptoms, patient and family education, bereavement and organ donation
 8. Include family education, psychosocial support and symptom management in patient care
 9. Initiate appropriate referrals for invasive procedures in the management of patients

III. **Rotation Design**

The Palliative Medicine student will observe and participate in care of patient at end-of-life in various settings – home visits, long-term care facilities and hospitals.

IV. **Credits**

4 week course = 4 credit hours

2 week course = 2 credit hours

V. **Suggested Textbook and References**

- a. Palliative Medicine: Expert Consult, 1st ed. Walsh, T. Declan and Augusto T. Caraceni
- b. Dying Well, Byock, Ira. Riverhead Books, 1997

VI. **Course Grading/Requirements for Successful Completion of the Palliative Medicine Rotation**

- a. Attendance according to VCOM and preceptor requirements
- b. Preceptor Evaluation at end-of-rotation

Grading policies, academic progress, and graduation requirements may be found in the *College Catalog and Student Handbook* at: <http://www.vcom.vt.edu/catalog/>.

VII. **Clinical Performance Objectives**

The end-of-rotation evaluation for this rotation will be completed by your preceptor and is based on clinical core competencies. These core competencies reflect student performance in 6 key areas: communication, problem solving, clinical skills, medical knowledge, osteopathic medicine and professional and ethical considerations.

Your end-of-rotation evaluation from your preceptor will be based directly on your performance in these 6 core competencies as described below.

- a. Communication - the student should demonstrate the following clinical communication skills:
 1. Effective listening to patient, family, peers, and healthcare team
 2. Demonstrates compassion and respect in patient communications
 3. Effective investigation of chief complaint, medical and psychosocial history specific to the rotation
 4. Considers whole patient: social, spiritual & cultural concerns
 5. Efficiently prioritizes essential from non-essential information
 6. Assures patient understands instructions, consents & medications
 7. Presents cases in an accurate, concise, well organized manner

- b. Problem Solving – the student should demonstrate the following problem solving skills:
 1. Identify important questions and separate data in organized fashion organizing positives & negatives
 2. Discern major from minor patient problems
 3. Formulate a differential while identifying the most common diagnoses
 4. Identify indications for & apply findings from the most common radiographic and diagnostic tests
 5. Identify correct management plan considering contraindications & interactions

- c. Clinical Skills - the student should demonstrate the following problem solving skills:
 1. Assesses vital signs & triage patient according to degree of illness
 2. Perform good auscultatory, palpatory & visual skills
 3. Perform a thorough physical exam pertinent to the rotation

- d. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine - the student should demonstrate the following skills in regards to osteopathic manipulative medicine:
 1. Apply osteopathic manipulative medicine successfully when appropriate
 2. Perform and document a thorough musculoskeletal exam
 3. Utilize palpatory skills to accurately discern physical changes that occur with various clinical disorders
 4. Apply osteopathic manipulative treatments successfully

- e. Medical Knowledge – the student should demonstrate the following in regards to medical knowledge:
 1. Identify & correlate anatomy, pathology and pathophysiology related to most disease processes
 2. Demonstrate characteristics of a self-motivated learner including demonstrating interest and enthusiasm about patient cases and research of the literature
 3. Are thorough & knowledgeable in researching evidence based literature
 4. Actively seek feedback from preceptor on areas for improvement
 5. Correlate symptoms & signs with most common diseases

- f. Professional and Ethical Behaviors - the student should demonstrate the following professional and ethical behaviors and skills:
 1. Is dutiful, arrives on time & stays until all tasks are complete
 2. Consistently follows through on patient care responsibilities
 3. Accepts & readily responds to feedback, is not resistant to advice
 4. Assures professionalism in relationships with patients, staff, & peers
 5. Displays integrity & honesty in medical ability and documentation

6. Acknowledges errors, seeks to correct errors appropriately
7. Is well prepared for and seeks to provide high quality patient care
8. Identifies the importance to care for underserved populations in a non-judgmental & altruistic manner

g. Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine Components

Students must be familiar with the OMM didactic and workshop requirements for their OMS-4 year as described in the Osteopathic Manipulative Medicine website