

## **Hospital-based Care (Acute and Consultative)**

- Goal:** To provide the opportunity for the fellow to gain expertise in the delivery of acute care to hospitalized older adults, and to learn and practice the art of effective geriatric consultation in the inpatient setting
- Locations:** Presbyterian/Montefiore and Shadyside hospitals
- Preceptors:** The fellow will be precepted by the faculty member assigned to the hospitalist service.
- Experience:** The fellow will be encouraged to function at near-attending level by taking clinical responsibility for the inpatient service, communicating with and teaching housestaff, contacting family members and liaising with consultants. Teaching will take place on daily rounds with the attending.
- The fellow will see inpatient geriatric consults, develop a treatment plan and then present the case to the attending. They will be responsible for communicating both in writing, and verbally, with the physician who requested the consult. The fellow should research topics that have arisen in patient care and be prepared to discuss the findings. They will also be expected to present interesting cases, together with pathology, at the division conferences
- The attending is available at all times to see patients and discuss cases.

### **Competency-based Objectives:**

#### Medical Knowledge

1. To know which medications should be avoided, or used with caution, in elderly patients (Beer's Criteria)
2. To recognize atypical presentations of common diseases in the elderly e.g. CVA presenting as confusion, UTI as falls
3. To understand the pharmacodynamics of medications in older adults

#### Patient Care (Clinical Skills)

4. To perform an appropriate assessment, including cognitive, functional, emotional, and nutritional status, in an acutely ill older adult
5. To provide an appropriate pre-operative assessment in the older adult

#### Patient Care (Patient Management Skills)

6. To recognize patients at risk of developing delirium and learn about prophylaxis and treatment of delirium
7. To minimize functional decline during hospitalization
8. To learn how to use antipsychotic medications appropriately in the inpatient setting
9. To define appropriate problems to address in a geriatric consultation and develop specific recommendations in response to them

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

- 10. To communicate effectively with referring physicians both in writing in the chart, and verbally if this is indicated
- 11. To communicate on a regular basis, and in a timely fashion, with caregivers and family members
- 12. To write effective notes in the chart that justify the level of billing

Practice-based Learning

- 13. To learn to balance potentially curative and palliative approaches to care in frail elderly patients
- 14. To interact with housestaff to improve geriatric care in the hospital

Professionalism

- 15. To become comfortable discussing limitations of care and advance directives with patients and family members

Systems-based Practice

- 16. To conduct effective discharge planning including assessment of need for home care services
- 17. To determine which patients would benefit from rehabilitation in an acute rehabilitation hospital or skilled nursing facility
- 18.

**Evaluations:** Direct observation and feedback by faculty.  
Competency-based faculty evaluation at end of rotation. Faculty will obtain input from housestaff.

**Recommended reading:**

Fick DM, Cooper JW, Wade WE, Waller JL, Maclean JR, Beers MH. Updating the Beers Criteria for potentially inappropriate medication use in older adults. [Arch Intern Med 2003; 163:2716-2724.](#)

Inouye SK, Sclesinger MJ, Lydon TJ. Delirium: a symptom of how hospital care is failing older persons and a window to improve quality of hospital care (Review). [American Journal of Medicine 1999; 106:565-573.](#)

Landefeld CS. Improving healthcare for older persons (Review). [Ann Intern Med 2003; 139:421-4.](#)

Charette SL. Hospitalization of the nursing home patient (Review). [J Am Med Dir Assoc 2003; 4:90-4.](#)

\*Additional readings listed on the following pages

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Attending

\_\_\_\_\_  
Fellow

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_