

Palliative Care (Elective)

Goal: To provide the opportunity for the fellow to learn about, and gain experience in, the practice of palliative care in a long-term care setting

Location: The VAMC Aspinwall

Preceptors: Emily Jaffe MD, MBA - a board-certified geriatrician, who also has a subspecialty certification in Palliative Care and is Director of the Palliative Care Unit at VAMC Aspinwall and attending physician in the Geriatric Research, Education and Clinical Center (GRECC) at the VA healthcare system in Pittsburgh

Experience: On Thursday mornings the fellow will participate in the interdisciplinary team meetings at the palliative care unit at Aspinwall VAMC under the direction of Dr. Emily Jaffe. The goals of this meeting are to review care plans for half of the unit patients, as well as to conduct a more detailed review of patients 21 days after admission, and quarterly. On other days the fellow will round with Dr. Jaffe and see new admissions and patients with interval problems

Competency-based Objectives:

Medical Knowledge

1. Recognize the clinical parameters associated with end-stage dementia
2. Recognize and understand the implications of the frailty syndrome

Patient Care (Patient Management Skills)

3. Learn how to manage syndromes commonly encountered at the end of life in the long-term care setting including pain, constipation, dyspnea, anxiety, depression and delirium

Communication and Interpersonal Skills

4. Become comfortable with communicating with family members and addressing their concerns about the patient

System-based Practice

5. Understand the role of hospice in the long-term care setting
6. Understand the role of other disciplines in end of life care and make appropriate referrals to other members of the interdisciplinary team

Evaluation: Competency-based faculty evaluation by preceptor at end of rotation

Recommended reading:

Marx TL. Partnering with hospice to improve pain management in the nursing home setting. JAOA 2005;105:22-26

American Medical Directors Association. White Paper on Hospice in long Term Care. AMDA House of Delegates Resolution 199. 2000. Available at:
<http://www.amda.com/library/whitepapers/hospiceinltc/resolution199.htm>

National Consensus Project for Quality Palliative Care. *Clinical Practice Guidelines for Quality Palliative Care*. 2004. Available at:
<http://www.nationalconsensusproject.org/Guideline.pdf>

Preceptor

Fellow

Date: _____

Date: _____