

## Dermatology, VA

This rotation is an elective rotation available to internal medicine residents at any level. Residents who complete this rotation can expect to see adult patients with a wide variety of dermatologic conditions and learn some basic dermatologic procedures. This rotation will be at the Des Moines VA Medical Center.

### A. General Information

- 1.) Rotation Length: 2 weeks
- 2.) Rotation Location: Dermatology Clinic  
VA Medical Center  
Des Moines, Iowa
- 3.) Course Director: Louis Hankel, PA-C

### B. Orientation

- 1.) Orientation to the rotation will be given by Mr. Hankel on the first morning of the rotation. The resident will be oriented to the Dermatology Clinic schedule, policies and procedures on the first morning of the orientation. The resident should contact Mr. Hankel the week before the rotation begins by calling the VA at 699-5999 or through his e-mail address at [louis.hankel@va.gov](mailto:louis.hankel@va.gov).

### C. Description of Rotation

- 1.) **EDUCATIONAL PURPOSE:** The purpose of this rotation is to provide the resident with an opportunity to learn about the common dermatologic conditions, benign and malignant, seen in a primary care provider's office. Uncommon conditions may be seen. This rotation will also provide an opportunity to learn and practice common dermatologic procedures.
- 2.) **PRINCIPAL TEACHING METHOD:** The resident will see patients in an ambulatory setting with common and uncommon dermatologic conditions under the direct supervision of a provider who specializes in dermatology.

- 3.) **EDUCATIONAL CONTENT:** The resident will see a variety of common and uncommon dermatologic conditions consistent with those in a primary care provider's office. The resident can expect to see patients with benign skin lesions, actinic keratoses, cutaneous malignancies, and rashes of various kinds. The resident will have an opportunity to learn and practice common dermatologic procedures, including cryotherapy, shave biopsies, and excisional biopsies.
- 4.) **ANCILLARY EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS:** The resident should supplement his or her clinical teaching with case-based learning using core internal medicine texts, e.g. Harrison's Principles of Internal Medicine, and specialty texts, e.g. Fitzpatrick's Dermatology in General Medicine, or Habif's textbook. In addition, the CD-ROM on Dermatology from Med Challenger is highly recommended for review (located in the residency office) and the Color Atlas and Synopsis of Clinical Dermatology by Fitzpatrick is also strongly recommended.

D. Competency-Specific Learning Objectives

- 1.) **Patient Care:** Residents must be able to perform an accurate and focused evaluation of patients with dermatologic conditions. Residents must be able to provide care that is effective, appropriate, and patient-centered. Residents are expected to:
  - Demonstrate the ability to obtain a focused, accurate, and clinically relevant examination in adult patients with dermatologic conditions.
  - Demonstrate the ability to generate an appropriate differential diagnosis, and the ability to develop an effective and patient-centered diagnostic and therapeutic plan.
  - Perform routine dermatologic procedures competently.
- 2.) **Medical Knowledge:** Residents must demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and epidemiological sciences and the application of this knowledge to patient care. Residents are expected to:
  - Demonstrate knowledge of common skin conditions routinely seen in an office setting. Know the epidemiology, risk factors, diagnostic criteria, clinical course, treatment strategy and prognosis.

- Be able to apply that knowledge in a patient-centered fashion.
- Know the indications, contraindications, and risks of commonly performed dermatologic procedures.

3.) **Practice Based Learning and Improvement:** Residents must be able to investigate and evaluate their own patient care practice, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their practice. Residents are expected to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of evidence based medicine and how to apply those principles in dermatology.
- Demonstrate an ability to use electronic resources to obtain information that will result in use of best practices in the care of patients with dermatologic conditions.

4.) **Interpersonal and Communication Skills:** Residents must be able to demonstrate effective interpersonal and communication skills with patients, patients' families, and with other health care providers. Residents are expected to:

- Create an effective therapeutic relationship with patients.
- Demonstrate effective listening skills.
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients, families, and other health care providers.

5.) **Professionalism:** Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carry out professional duties and responsibilities, behave with integrity, knowledge of medical and professional ethics, and sensitivity in caring for a diverse patient population. Residents are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity at all times.
- Demonstrate a commitment to patient care and scholarship that supersedes personal interest.
- Demonstrate knowledge of, and commitment to, the ethical principles regarding patient care, confidentiality, and obtaining informed consent.
- Demonstrate sensitivity to patients of different races and ethnicity, cultures, religions, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and disabilities.

6.) **Systems Based Practice:** Residents must demonstrate an awareness of the context of the system in which health care is provided and knowledge of how to best serve as an advocate for their patients in that system and how to obtain access to necessary resources for their patients. Residents must be committed to the highest quality of care, and yet be aware of the costs of health care. Residents are expected to:

- Know the health care system and its complexities and be able to obtain access to resources necessary to patient care.
- Practice cost-effective medicine without losing sight of the focus on quality and the best possible outcomes.
- Advocate for patients in a complex health care delivery system.

E. **Medical Record and Procedure Documentation:** Residents will complete all documentation of any office visits and/or consults using the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) at the VA in the prescribed format. All documentation will be completed before leaving the clinic that day. In addition, residents will document all procedures in the EMR at the VA, again using the prescribed format, and also document any procedures in E-value. All procedures should be documented the same day they are performed.

F. **Logistics**

- 1.) Residents will complete orientation to this rotation on the first day of the service.
- 2.) Most of this rotation will be in the Dermatology Clinic on the Des Moines VA Campus. Clinic hours are from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. Residents should arrive by 8:30 to review the clinic schedule, and can expect to leave at 4:00 PM. On Wednesdays, residents will accompany Mr. Hankel to the Dermatology Clinic at the VA Clinic in Knoxville.
- 3.) Residents will see the patients that they are assigned. The resident should complete a focused history and physical examination, and then present the patient to Mr. Hankel. The resident should include an impression and plan in his or her presentation. Mr. Hankel will then see the patient and discuss the diagnosis and management with the resident. The resident will complete the note and any necessary documentation,

enter orders as appropriate, and cross-copy Mr. Hankel on any notes.

## G. Evaluation

- 1.) Residents will be evaluated by the attending staff at the end of the rotation. Evaluations will be discussed formally with the resident at the end of the rotation, feedback provided, and an evaluation will be completed by the attending staff using e-Value. The resident will be expected to review that evaluation and sign it to demonstrate that the evaluation has been received and reviewed. The evaluation will be included as part of regularly scheduled formative evaluations.
- 2.) Residents will be evaluated according to his or her performance in each of the following core competencies:

### **Patient Care:**

- Demonstrate the ability to effectively evaluate and manage adult patients with common dermatologic conditions.
- Demonstrate the ability to perform common dermatologic procedures.

### **Medical Knowledge:**

- Demonstrate knowledge of common dermatologic conditions.
- Demonstrate knowledge of indications, contraindications, and risks of commonly performed dermatologic procedures.

### **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement:**

- Demonstrate ability to use available on-line and other resources to assist in diagnosis and management of common and uncommon dermatologic conditions.
- Demonstrate ability to identify gaps in knowledge base, and strategies to correct any gaps or deficiencies.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills:**

- Demonstrate effective communication skills with patients, families, and other health care providers.
- Demonstrate timely and accurate completion of all medical records.
- Demonstrate the ability to properly obtain informed consent.

**Professionalism:**

- Demonstrate ethical and respectful behavior toward all patients, families, and other health care providers at all times.
- Demonstrate knowledge of principles and practice of patient confidentiality and protected health information.

**Systems Based Practice:**

- Demonstrate an evidence-based and cost-conscious approach to patient care.
- Collaborate with nursing and administrative support personnel to arrange referrals and follow-up.

W. J. Yost, MD  
6/25/10