

PALLIATIVE MEDICINE CURRICULUM PROPOSAL

Objectives:

- 1) To obtain the basic skills necessary to care for a patient at the end of life, as a primary care physician.
- 2) To learn how to work with a hospice multidisciplinary team.
- 3) To understand what Medicare hospice benefit covers and its regulations.

Resident responsibilities:

- 1) Read the hospice/palliative medicine core curriculum text.
- 2) Resident will complete the case vignettes on-line.
- 3) Resident will be assigned two to four new hospice patients per year as they sign on to hospice and assume the primary care physician role.
- 4) Resident will make an initial home visit within one week of the patient signing on to hospice.
- 5) Resident will sign all hospice “paperwork” for their patient with the supervising attending/hospice medical director co-signing.
- 6) Resident will handle all phone-calls from the hospice team, 24 hrs a day, 7 days a week.
- 7) Resident will make home visits on a minimum of once a month, and on a PRN basis on the request of the hospice nurse or the patient/family.
- 8) Resident will contact the attending/medical director from the patient’s home at the end of each home visit to review the assessment and plan.
- 9) Resident will fill out and (if they have a license) sign the death certificate after review by the attending/medical director. (If the resident does not have a license, the attending/medical director will sign.)
- 10) Resident will if possible attend the funeral of the patient or call the patient’s family within one week of the date of death for bereavement follow-up. A bereavement assessment note summarizing the bereavement risk of the family will be submitted after discussion with the hospice team.

Potential Assessment tools:

- 1) Pre and post-tests on knowledge and attitudes.
- 2) Video tape interview on a standardized patient – breaking bad news.
- 3) Evaluation oral or written by the hospice team.
- 4) Feedback of family.
- 5) An expression of their experience on paper, e.g.
 - Essay
 - Poem
 - Drawing