



ELECTIVE NAME:

Hospice - Palliative Care/End Of Life Curriculum

Course No:

FMP 618

INSTITUTION:

Faith Hospice, 2100 Raybrook SE #300 Grand Rapids, MI 49546

Global Objective:

The curriculum as designed will provide the medical student with a comprehensive base of knowledge and skills necessary to manage patients and families faced with an end of life illness. Lectures are given longitudinally at the medical school, nursing school, residency grand rounds, and various hospital medical staff meetings, and are designed to address basic issues surrounding end of life issues including: pathophysiology of the dying process; attitudes of the medical community as well as the community at large; ethical issues surrounding end of life; national trends in dying and palliative care; symptom management, including pain and non-pain symptoms; and communication issues. The elective rotations and preceptorship components described below will provide clinical opportunities for the resident to interact with (and in some cases, follow longitudinally) patients and families at the end of life.

Didactic Lectures

Lectures in topics related to end of life care and palliative medicine will be offered on a rotating basis, such that students may have exposure to all of the topics within a 2 year period. It is expected that the student will attend lectures offered during their rotation experience. Additionally, a compendium of relevant articles and publications relating to appropriate topics will be provided to the student as required reading.

Lecture titles (not inclusive):

- The Essence of Care at the End of Life (1-3 hours)
- Integrating the Continuum of Palliative Medicine in Chronic and Terminal Disease (1 hour)
- Measuring Quality at the End of Life (1 hour)
- The Importance of Planning for Death and Dying (0.5 hour)
- The Essentials of Pain Management (2 hours)
- Non-Pain Symptom Management (4 hours)
- Management of the Pediatric Patient at the End of Life (2 hours)
- Communication at the End of Life (1 hour)
- Ethical Issues in Death and Dying (variable)
- Case Studies in End of Life Care (variable)

Elective Rotation

A month-long rotation in hospice and palliative care is available through Faith Hospice. In this experience, the student will manage an inpatient hospice caseload, including admission work-up in the facility and rounding on a daily basis. He/she will become expert in understanding the dying process, evaluating terminal patients, managing pain and non-pain symptoms, communicating with patients and families regarding end of life issues, and working within an interdisciplinary team. He/she will have responsibility for representing the medical component at interdisciplinary team meetings (under physician supervision). The outpatient experience of the rotation will involve home visits on a weekly basis, including visits with nurses, chaplains, and social workers. The resident will participate in an on-call rotation, covering both residential and home-based patients ("first call" with physician back up). Supervision will be provided by the Faith Hospice medical director (or designee). Creative structure in the development of the clinical rotation can allow the student to participate in clinical activities on weekends or on specific days stretched longitudinally over several months. The student will be evaluated by the medical director (or designee) on the basis of observed behavior and accomplishments during the month.