Learning Objectives

Department of Gastroenterology

**Competencies 1 & 2: Patient Care and Medical Knowledge**

1. Perform a GI-focused history and physical examination.
2. Understand the indications, contraindications, and complications for the core GI endoscopic procedures (EGD, colonoscopy, ERCP, EUS).
3. Understand the indications, contraindications, strengths, weaknesses, and complications of the various radiologic studies utilized in GI (x-rays, ultrasound, CT, MRI, angiography, scintigraphy).
4. Understand the medical approach to GERD, its pathogenesis, medical/surgical treatment options, and its complications.
5. Understand the management of Barrett’s mucosa in the esophagus. Be able to establish a diagnosis of esophageal cancer through various imaging modalities.
6. Understand impaired gastric emptying, its diagnosis, treatment and clinical importance as it relates to the management of DM.
7. Understand the role of H pylori and NSAID use in the development of peptic ulcer disease.
8. Distinguish the presentations of cholelithiasis, choledocholithiasis and cholangitis.
9. Discuss the diagnosis and management of acute and chronic pancreatitis.
10. Discuss the diagnosis and management of celiac disease.
11. Understand the difference between oropharyngeal and esophageal dysphagia, including the medical approach to diagnosing and treating achalasia.
12. Understand the indications for the use of chronic NG tubes for feeding vs. percutaneous gastrostomy tubes vs. parenteral hyperalimentation. Indicate the major life threatening complications of each.
13. Understand the measurements of nutritional status. Discuss the laboratory used in the assessment of nutritional status, magnitude of depletion and response to therapy.
14. Indicate at least three specific circumstances in which increased vitamin supplementation is required to prevent disease.
15. Understand the current recommendations regarding colon cancer screening based on risk, previous studies and family history.
16. Discuss the pathogenesis of diverticuli, diverticulitis, and their common complications. Indicate the appropriate management.
17. Contrast regions of the bowel involved in and presentation of Ulcerative Colitis vs. Crohn’s disease.
18. Discuss the diagnosis and management of Irritable Bowel Syndrome.
19. Indicate the causes of acute and chronic GI blood loss. Understand the diagnostic evaluation and management of acute and chronic GI bleeding.

**Competency 3: Interpersonal Skills and Communication**

Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in information exchange and partnering with patients, their families and professional associates.
1. Provide effective patient education, including reassurance, for a condition(s) common to gastroenterology not only for gastrointestinal conditions, but also with relating this information to patients, families, and caregivers.
2. Communicate effectively with primary care and other physicians, other health professionals (e.g. physical, speech, and occupational therapists, social workers, and health-related agencies) to create and sustain information exchange and teamwork for patient care.
3. Maintain accurate, legible, timely and legally appropriate medical records, including referral forms and letters, for subspecialty patients in the outpatient and inpatient setting.

**Competency 4: Practice-based Learning and Improvement**
Demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for continuous self-assessment, using scientific methods and evidence to investigate, evaluate, and improve one's patient care practice.
1. Identify standardized guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of conditions common to gastroenterology and adapt them to the individual needs of specific patients.
2. Identify personal learning needs related to this subspecialty; systematically organize relevant information resources for future reference; and plan for continuing acquisition of knowledge and skills.

**Competency 5: Professionalism**
Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diversity.
1. Demonstrate personal accountability to the well-being of patients (e.g., following up on lab, imaging, and procedural results, writing comprehensive notes, and seeking answers to patient care questions).
2. Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
3. Adhere to ethical and legal principles, and be sensitive to diversity.

**Competency 6: Systems-based Practice**
Understand how to practice high-quality health care and advocate for patients within the context of the health care system.
1. Identify key aspects of health care systems as they apply to gastroenterology, including the referral process, and differentiate between consultation and referral.
2. Demonstrate sensitivity to the costs of clinical care in the gastroenterology setting, and take steps to minimize costs without compromising quality.
3. Recognize and advocate for families who need assistance to deal with systems complexities, such as the referral process, lack of insurance, multiple medication refills, multiple appointments with long transport times, or inconvenient hours of service.
4. Recognize one's limits and those of the system; take steps to avoid medical errors and facilitate patient’s navigation through the system.