

End of Life Vertical Integrated Curriculum

Course/Clerkship Content

Many objectives of the End of Life Curriculum will be addressed during individual patient encounters with seriously ill and dying patients during the clerkships.

Didactics and case discussions occur throughout the 4-year curriculum which formally address issues related to caring for patients, and their families, at the end of life. These sessions provide students with the background for participating in the care of and communication with their patients.

YEAR 1

Behavioral Medicine and Development

- Lecture: Death and Dying

Patient Centered Medicine 1

- Lecture: Clinical Bioethics
- Lecture: The Spiritual History
- Chaplain Mentor Program – Some students may experience their first death in medicine through this program.

YEAR 2

Mechanisms of Human Disease

- Lecture: Coma, Brain Death, End of Life
- Lecture: The Autopsy
- Small Group Case Discussion: Patient with Metastatic Lung Cancer

Pharmacology and Therapeutics

- Lecture: Palliation of Constipation, Nausea and Vomiting

Patient Centered Medicine 2

- Lecture: Advance Directives

YEAR 3

Patient Centered Medicine 3

- End of Life Sessions I and II
 - Lecture: Hospice and Palliative Medicine
 - Lecture: Last Hours of Living: Care of the Imminently Dying Patient
 - Lecture: Delivering Serious News

- Lecture: End of Life Ethics
 - Caring for Seriously Ill and Dying Patients- Key Principles for All Physicians
 - Pain and other Symptom Management
 - Faculty Panel – Caring for Seriously Ill Patients: Hope We Cope
- “Spiritual Care and Death of a Patient”: One of the requirements of the PCM3 Course is completion of a paper in which each student reflects on the ethical and human dimensions of caring for one of their patients who died.

YEAR 4

Subinternship: Wards

- Case Discussion: Pain Management

Subinternship ICU:

- Lecture: Advanced Topics in Critical Care Ethics and Decision-Making
- Clinical Skills Exercise: Completing a POLST FORM