

Elective Description

Campus: Southeast (Fargo)

Department: Internal Medicine

Elective/Experience Title: Introduction To Rheumatology

Course Number: IMED 9226

Location of Elective: Essentia Health Care System & Fargo VA Regional Medical Center – Fargo, ND

Preceptor(s): Yuri Nakasato, MD

Period(s) Offered: All

Course prerequisites:

Number of students per period: 1

Revised Curriculum Phase(s): 2 & 3

Purpose: To gain education and experience in the care of patients requiring rheumatology services.

Objectives: Following successful completion of this elective, the student will be able to:

1. Execute an appropriate history and physical examination on patients with rheumatological disorders with an emphasis on the musculoskeletal system. *(Competency 3.1)*
2. Generate Interpretations of the laboratory tests for diagnosis and management of rheumatic disease with emphasis on synovial fluid analysis. *(Competency 3.3)*
3. Generate interpretations of the various imaging studies used in the diagnosis and management of rheumatic diseases with an emphasis on reading plain films and the interpretation of bone density testing. *(Competency 3.3)*
4. Generate a differential diagnosis on patients with arthritis and connective tissue disorder (CTD). *(Competency 3.3)*
5. Generate a diagnostic plan and offer initial treatment measures for patients with rheumatological disorders. *(Competency 3.4)*
6. Execute accurate documentation of the history, physical exam, differential, and proposed plan for rheumatic disease patients. *(Competency 3.7)*
7. Choose to communicate effectively and in a professional manner with members of the healthcare team regarding patient care including accurate oral case presentations. *(Competency 3.7, 4.2)*
8. Summarize orally information on rheumatologic topics using preceptor selected reading materials. *(Competency 1.8)*

Instructional Activities: During this elective, the student will be involved in/experience:

1. Evaluation of selected rheumatologic patients.
2. Discussions of rheumatology cases among peers and attending physicians.
3. Hospital rounds and participation in the rheumatology inpatient consultation service.
4. Multidisciplinary interaction with orthopedics, radiology, and physical therapy in the concurrent care of patients with rheumatological disorders.
5. Instruction on the use of laboratory rheumatologic tests and radiologic interpretations relative to rheumatic diseases.
6. Observe and participate in basic rheumatological procedures including arthrocentesis and joint injections with discussion of indications, techniques, and specific findings.

Criteria for Grading: During and following this elective, the preceptor will:

1. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.
2. Evaluate by direct observation the student's ability to perform histories, physical examinations, oral presentations and selected procedures on rheumatologic patients. (Objective 1, 7)
3. Evaluate by direct observation or review of written work the student's ability to interpret laboratory results and histological and radiological studies for rheumatologic patients. (Objective 2, 3)
4. Evaluate by direct observation the student's ability to communicate in a complete and professional fashion. (Objective 7)
5. Evaluate by direct review the student's written notes including clinic notes, histories and physicals, and consultation notes. (Objective 6)
6. Evaluate the student's oral presentations and ability to appropriately summarize, develop differential diagnosis, and therapeutic plans for selected rheumatologic patients. (Objective 7, 4, 5)
7. Evaluate by direct observation the student's knowledge of preceptor selected reading materials on rheumatologic patients. (Objective 8)