

Elective Description

Campus: Northeast (Grand Forks)
Elective/Experience Title: Palliative Medicine
Location of Elective: Altru Health System

Department: Internal Medicine
Course Number: IMED 9322

Preceptor(s): Laura Lizakowski, MD

Period(s) Offered: all
Number of students per period: 1

Course prerequisites:
Revised Curriculum Phase(s): 2 & 3

Purpose: To give students an overview of caring for patients with advanced illness, end-of-life cares and management of symptoms associated with advanced illness and/or cancer.

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

1. Demonstrate compassionate, appropriate, and effective care for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of well-being in the context of life-threatening illness.
2. Perform a palliative care history and physical and formulate appropriate assessment and treatment plans.
3. Perform a comprehensive palliative review of common physical symptoms.
3. Manage common symptoms secondary to life-threatening progressive disease.
4. Achieve competency and knowledge about evidence/best practices in managing pain in the context of life-threatening progressive disease and/or cancer.
5. Recognize the dying phase and how to manage terminal symptoms.
6. Communicate effectively with patients and families inclusive of advanced care planning and delivery of bad news.
8. Interact with other medical personnel and understand the need for interprofessional collaboration in the delivery of medical care.

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

1. Performance of a palliative care history & physical; formulate an appropriate assessment and treatment plan.
2. Management of common symptoms associated with advanced illness.
3. Recognition of the dying phase and management of terminal symptoms.
4. Communication of the plan of care to patients, families, physicians, and other members of the care team.

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

1. Utilize the standardized UNDSMHS senior elective evaluation form.
2. Directly observe the care of the patient and family.
3. Evaluate the student's documentation in the medical record.
4. Evaluate by direct observation the student's performance in clinical skills specific to palliative care such as pain and other symptom management.