Internal Medicine - Palliative Care

Available in in blocks of two (2) weeks or more. Students will not be assigned until annual residents requests arriving between May to end of June have been accommodated. Supervision is by one of the Palliative Attending physicians or a Palliative “Fellow”. This elective will include weekly academic teaching and journal club on Thursday mornings attended by faculty, residents and students. Students will not present.

A list of the areas of study is available at the following link.

By the end of the elective period the student shall:

- Be exposed to the art of Palliative medicine in determining the patient’s and family’s goals in the context of an illness that is in its final months or days including guiding treatment decisions and discussions within the unique variables of that individual’s family, ethnic, and spiritual cultures, involving a strong Interprofessional team.

This elective will also provide the applicant with the capacity to:

- Share the responsibility for daily clinical care, family meetings and support, arranging any consults, tests, procedures etc. and good documentation of same.
- To gain a comfort talking about dying whilst providing hope for quality of life and comfort
- Assess pain and symptoms effectively via a pain history, appropriate physical exam and relevant investigations
- Self-assess one’s own attitudes and beliefs in caring for the dying
- Assist in determining, recording and implementing goals of care through effective communication with patients, families and other caregivers
- Assist in the education of patients and family about end-of-life care issues and pain and symptom management
- Familiarize themselves with the elements of suffering in end-of-life care for patients, families and caregivers

Availability - Palliative inpatient wards are located at Riverview and St Boniface with a consult service at HSC and Community hospitals. Students are assigned based on vacancy and attending availability. Students will be assigned a small number of patients.

Call Responsibility - Call is not a mandatory part of the elective.