

Elective: Emergency Medicine

OVERVIEW

The Emergency Medicine program takes place at two tertiary centers (Health Sciences Center, St. Boniface) and 3 community hospitals (Grace, Seven Oaks, Concordia) in Winnipeg. The student will be scheduled at one emergency department per elective and will be assigned to one preceptor for each shift. The staff emergency physician must review all patients with the student prior to the patient's discharge from the department.

Every shift will provide new opportunities to learn about a variety of diseases and procedures. To optimize learning, students should read around the cases seen after each shift. Students are encouraged to share their particular interests with their preceptors and department staff in order to facilitate their learning further. The student will also gain valuable experience in collaborating with multiple disciplines within the emergency department, including medical consultants from other specialties, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, home care and social work. Students have an important role communicating with the patient, families, nurses, consultants, multidisciplinary team and preceptor in order to facilitate the safe and effective disposition of the patient.

The Emergency Medicine elective provides an opportunity for students to improve their skills assessing and managing a wide variety of patients in an acute care setting. Depending on the clinical site, students will see patients of varying ages as well as patients with a wide range of pathology and with various degrees of acuity.

INTRODUCTION

Location(s):

This elective is conducted in two tertiary centres: Health Sciences Centre and St. Boniface General Hospital; as well as 3 community hospitals in Winnipeg: Grace, Seven Oaks and Concordia.

Preceptors:

The student will be scheduled to work with a specific preceptor for each shift during the elective. Although there are many emergency physicians attending at each centre, every effort is made to schedule the elective student with a limited number of preceptors to allow for continuity in education and feedback.

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CanMEDS)

Medical Expert

As Medical Experts, physicians integrate all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills and professional attitudes in their provision of patient-centered care.

The student can expect to be actively involved in the service. This will encompass:

- Develop an approach to the undifferentiated patient.
- Perform a focused history and physical exam, formulate a broad differential diagnosis and consider investigations for common emergency medicine presentations such as chest pain, dyspnea, altered mental status, shock, sepsis, trauma, poisonings and psychiatric complaints.
- Recognize a sick, unstable patient and discuss the initial management to stabilize the patient.
- Discuss and participate in the initial steps of ACLS in the pulseless patient.
- Demonstrate the primary and secondary survey in the trauma patient.

Emergency Medicine provides an opportunity to perform many procedures including:

- Suturing
- Chest tube insertion
- Lumbar puncture
- Paracentesis
- Thoracentesis
- Fracture reduction and casting
- Bedside ultrasound

Communicator

Physicians effectively facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during, and after the medical encounter.

As Communicators, students will facilitate the doctor-patient relationship:

- Establish an effective and therapeutic relationship with patients and families
- Convey relevant information and explanations to patients, families and the health care team
- Provide accurate oral and written information about every patient encounter
- Attempt to resolve any challenging communication issues effectively
- Along with the staff physician, obtain informed consent prior to performing a procedure
- Participate in discussions with patients and families delivering bad news
- Discuss advanced care plans with patients and families

Collaborator

Physicians effectively work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

As Collaborators, students will work effectively within the surgical team to achieve optimal patient care:

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- Understand the importance of, and be able to work as part of a team to deliver efficient and compassionate care to patients.
- Collaborate with nurses and allied health professionals to develop an appropriate disposition for complicated patients.

Leader

Physicians engage with others to contribute to a vision of a high-quality health care system and take responsibility for the delivery of excellent patient care through their activities as clinicians, administrators, scholars, or teachers.

As Leaders, students will participate in the activities of the surgical service, making decisions, allocating resources, and contributing to the effectiveness of the health care team:

- Understand the importance of risk stratification of patients in the ER.
- Differentiate between tests which must occur immediately as an inpatient versus those which can occur at a later time as an outpatient.

Health Advocate

Physicians responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations.

As Health Advocates, students will responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations:

- Demonstrate an awareness of the underlying psychosocial and socioeconomic problems that may precipitate presentation to the ED.
- Understand the resources available to individuals with underlying psychosocial and socioeconomic problems and the means by which to access them.

Scholar

Physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning, as well as the creation, dissemination, application and translation of medical knowledge.

As Scholars, students will demonstrate a lifelong commitment to learning:

- Discuss evidence based literature and translational research in developing management plans for patients (for example, clinical decision rules).
- Participate in academic activities such as Grand Rounds, Journal Clubs and Resident Seminars.

Professional

As Professionals, physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, profession-led regulation, and high personal standards of behaviour.

As Professionals, students are committed to health and well-being of individuals through ethical practice, profession-led regulation and high personal standards of behavior:

- Respect patient confidentiality, privacy and autonomy.

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- Recognize one's personal and clinical limitations and seeks assistance promptly when required
 - Be respectful of patients, families and members of the ED inter-professional team
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INFORMATION

These are locations, readings, evaluations, call responsibilities, etc.

Required Reading

- The ACLS provider manual
- The ATLS provider manual
- Students are encouraged to read around cases seen during their shifts. Recommended resources include:
 - Tintanelli's Emergency Medicine, A comprehensive Study Guide
 - Rosen's Emergency Medicine: Concepts and Clinical Practice
 - UpToDate.

Teaching Unit

Evaluations

Students should present themselves to their assigned preceptor at the beginning of each scheduled shift in the emergency department.

FITERS will be distributed to the student's primary preceptor at the beginning of the elective. Feedback will be provided to the student on an ongoing basis during and after each shift. Formal feedback will be provided on the FITER upon completion of the elective.

Call Responsibilities

Call Responsibility - No call is required.

WARD ACTIVITIES

Expectations

Students will be expected to assess patients, record the history and physical exam, review any available results, formulate a differential diagnosis and preliminary plan, and present the patient to their preceptor. As they become more proficient, a student should take graded and progressive responsibility for patient care: following up on results, communicating to all necessary parties, discussing with consultants as needed, and providing discharge instructions and education to the patient.

Students are expected to perform between 32 - 40 hours per week of clinical time in the Emergency Department (4-5 shifts/week).

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By the end of the elective period the student shall:

- Demonstrate proficiency in the assessment of patients in the Emergency Department.
- Understand disease processes as they affect patients who present to the Emergency Department.
- Develop applied problem solving techniques in Emergency Medicine.

This elective will also provide the student with the opportunity to:

- Discuss, observe and occasionally perform, as allowed, a variety of emergency medicine procedures, including bedside ultrasound, suturing, chest tube placement, paracentesis, thoracentesis, lumbar puncture, fracture reduction, casting and central line insertion.
- Attend Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds, Journal Clubs and resident academic days.

Academic Schedule

- Elective students are encouraged to attend the Emergency Medicine academic sessions, provided they are not scheduled for a shift during that time.
- Department of Emergency Medicine Grand Rounds occur every second Tuesday at Health Sciences Center or St. Boniface hospital.
- Journal Clubs occur quarterly.
- Resident Academic Days occur every Tuesday.