

# Elective: Internal Medicine; Geriatric Medicine

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## OVERVIEW

The Section of Geriatric Medicine offers a unique opportunity for the student to experience the specialty of geriatric medicine. The student will be exposed to both in-patient and out-patient geriatric services. Teaching within the Section is done one to one and each student will be assigned to a Geriatrician during in-patient service and to a different Geriatrician in out-patient clinics. Formal teaching sessions, directed readings and geriatric rounds/journal club complement clinical activities. The rotations are structured with the goal to give you exposure to the breadth of geriatric and community services.

## INTRODUCTION

### Location(s):

Deer Lodge Centre  
Victoria General Hospital  
St. Boniface Hospital  
Health Sciences Centre  
Riverview Health Centre  
Seven Oaks General Hospital

### Contact Person:

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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:

- Perform a cognitive assessment and obtain collateral history relevant to cognitive and/or functional decline.
- Define, and distinguish between the clinical presentations of delirium, dementia and depression.
- Diagnose delirium, formulate a differential diagnosis for potential causes, and develop initial plans for evaluation and management.
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- Evaluate baseline (pre-morbid) and current functional abilities (both basic and instrumental activities of daily living) using reliable sources of information
- Obtain a detailed medication history that includes a list of all medications being taken, dosages, frequencies, indications, evidence of benefit, side effects and an assessment of adherence.

## **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:

- Show skills in communicating with the elderly and their care givers.
- Recognize the importance of psychosocial interactions in the care of the elderly and the importance of including the family or care givers in the making of a comprehensive care plan.

## **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:

- Discuss effective communication strategies for developing a management plan in conjunction with a referring physician.
- Communicate effectively with physicians, multi-disciplinary team members and other health care professionals.
- Be able to describe the role of each member of the multi-disciplinary team in the assessment and care of the elderly.
- Communicate the key components of an appropriate transfer or discharge plan (e.g. accurate medication list, need for support services, plans for follow-up).

## **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:

- Identify other health care practitioners and available health care resources which can be utilized in planning the care of an older patient.
- Understand the process of personal care home placement, levels of care, interim options.
- Develop a rational evidence-based plan of investigation for a complex clinical case.
- Identify patient, caregiver and system assets and deficits and information needed as they relate to developing a discharge plan.

## **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:

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- Define and identify iatrogenic illness, in particular adverse drug reactions
- Identify areas for system improvement

## 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:

- Identify a clinical knowledge gap, research medical literature and develop a presentation on the selected topic.

## 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:

- Demonstrate a respectful and caring attitude when managing care of the elderly and their families.
- Define and describe (including the roles of physicians and substitute decision-makers) advance planning directives dealing with personal and financial decision-making, as permitted by legislation in their province of training

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## INFORMATION

**Required Reading:** A reading package will be provided at the start of the rotation.

**Teaching Unit:** Students may be assigned to the Rehab Geriatric In-Patient Unit at Deer Lodge or Victoria General Hospital for the rotation. Students are expected to attend didactic seminars and geriatric rounds held at St. Boniface Hospital or Deer Lodge Centre. Students may be assigned to outpatient clinics at Riverview Health Centre, Deer Lodge Centre or Seven Oaks Hospital. While every attempt will be made to minimize travel requirements, travel should be expected between sites. There will be an opportunity to do a home visit.

**Evaluations:** The physician with whom you have spent the most time will collate information from all the attending's physicians and meet you in person and complete the on-line evaluation

**Call Responsibilities:** Call is NOT required

**Teaching Sessions:** Formal teaching is held every Monday afternoon followed by Section of Geriatric Medicine Rounds and Journal Club

**Academic Expectations:** students are expected to present a critically appraised article to colleagues in an informal setting and submit a brief advocacy project