

Clerkship Objectives

OBJECTIVES OF THE 3rd YEAR PEDIATRIC CLERKSHIP

The pediatrics clerkship at LSU adheres to the national curriculum as developed by COMSEP (Council on Medical Students Education in Pediatrics). This curriculum addresses issues unique to childhood and adolescence by focusing on human developmental biology, and by emphasizing the impact of family, community and society on child health and wellbeing. Additionally, the clerkship focuses on the impact of disease and its treatment on the developing human, and emphasizes growth and development, principles of health supervision and recognition of common health problems. The role of the pediatrician in prevention of disease and injury and the importance of collaboration between the pediatrician and other health professionals is stressed.

The course objectives, outlined below, are linked to the LSU School of Medicine Educational Program Objectives, which demonstrates the contribution of the pediatrics clerkship to your overall education. As one of the core clerkships during the third year of medical school, pediatrics shares with family medicine, internal medicine, obstetrics/gynecology, psychiatry, and surgery the common responsibility to teach the knowledge, skills and attitudes basic to the development of a competent general physician.

Over the next 8 weeks...

You will develop skills in:

1. Patient care (Program Objectives 1-6)
 - a. Interviewing
 - i. Take age-appropriate medical histories that include the birth, developmental, family and social history
 - b. Physical Examination
 - i. Perform age-appropriate physical exams that include growth chart and developmental exams
 - c. Clinical Problem solving
 - i. Develop a complete problem list and differential diagnosis for each patient
 - ii. Formulate an initial diagnostic and therapeutic plan
 - iii. Interpret clinical and laboratory data
 - d. Preventative health
 - i. Learn about immunizations and practice preventive Pediatrics
 - e. Provide effective patient care with respect to patient diversity and cultural beliefs
 - f. Manage unique or challenging aspects of patients' health
 - i. Learn about compassionate end-of-life care
 - g. Communicating effectively for patient care
 - i. Write a complete history and physical

- ii. Write daily progress notes
- iii. Write admission and discharge orders
- iv. Write prescriptions
- v. Present a well-organized summary of findings from the history and physical obtained in a patient encounter

2. Medical Knowledge (Program Objectives 8, 9, 11, and 12)

- a. Acquire knowledge of basic disease processes encountered in pediatrics
 - i. Issues unique to the newborn infant
 - ii. Issues unique to the adolescent patient
 - iii. Growth and development
 - iv. Infant feeding and childhood nutrition
 - v. Immunizations and preventive Pediatrics
 - vi. Genetic factors in health and disease
 - vii. Common pediatric illnesses
 - viii. Therapeutics
 - ix. Fluid and electrolyte management
 - x. Poisonings
 - xi. Pediatric emergencies
 - xii. Child abuse
- b. Identify and apply principles of medical ethics and attributes of professionalism in Pediatrics
- c. Participate regularly in learning activities that maintain and advance competence and performance
 - i. Attend simulation sessions, student forums, resident conferences and Grand Rounds

3. Practice Based Learning and Improvement (Program Objectives 14, 15)

- a. Use pediatric literature to research diagnosis and management of clinical problems
- b. Use feedback to implement changes in performance and improvements in practice

4. Interpersonal Relationships and Communication (Program Objectives 16-18)
 - a. Communicate effectively with patients, families, and other health care workers
 - b. Learn how to communicate effectively with patients in challenging situations
 - c. Communicate effectively with team members

5. Professional Behavior (Program Objectives 19-21)
 - a. Continue to develop attitudes and professional behaviors appropriate for clinical practice

6. Systems Based Practice (Program Objectives 22, 23)
 - a. Continue to learn about the healthcare system including utilization of resources and recognizing how patient care decisions affect the system

7. Interprofessional Collaboration (Program Objectives 24, 25)
 - a. Learn how to work in a collaborative team with other health professionals and provide care that is safe, effective and efficient

8. Personal and Professional Development (Program Objectives 26, 28)
 - a. Continue self-assessment regarding learning, knowledge, emotional needs and limitation of skills in order to improve
 - b. Engage in activities that promote personal and professional growth

You will continue to develop attitudes and professional behaviors appropriate for clinical practice.

There will be many opportunities to refine these skills, as you spend time with your patients on the wards, nursery, and ambulatory settings. You will learn from patient rounds, teaching conferences, and Grand Rounds. You will practice these skills during an observed history and physical and complete a write-up with a problem list, differential diagnosis, and management plan. You will improve your knowledge base and communication skills during your participation in Pediatric Forums. We hope that you enjoy this clerkship!