

Pediatric Infectious Diseases Elective

The pediatric infectious diseases elective is offered to residents in their second or third year of residency (except med/peds residents who may take it in their fourth year).

The goals of the elective include:

I Patient Care

GOAL: Residents are expected to be involved in caring for children seen by pediatric infectious diseases. This includes the ability to gather appropriate information on the patient's condition, organize it in a rational manner, and develop a plan of diagnosis and treatment appropriate to the patient's needs.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Take a thorough history, including personal, family and social history on a patient with potential ID problems.
2. Perform an appropriate physical examination, recognizing findings specific for infectious disease or fever of unknown source.
3. Be able to take an accurate blood pressure in children.
4. Decide about appropriate laboratory and radiologic studies to evaluate patients with infectious disease.
5. Follow-up appropriately on laboratory and radiologic studies ordered.
6. Develop a diagnostic plan appropriate for the findings.
7. Develop an appropriate treatment plan for children with infectious diseases.
8. Devise a treatment plan for common infectious problems, with consideration of the patient's personal and family needs.

II Medical Knowledge

GOAL: Residents should become knowledgeable about common infectious conditions, their evaluation and treatment in infants, children and adolescents. They should understand microbial and host factors in health and in common childhood infections.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Select and study areas of personal deficiency among the many pediatric infectious diseases and therapies available for them.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of normal host defense, including adaptive and innate immunity, as well as normal developmental changes and deficiency states.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of normal leukocyte and host defense protein values in the pediatric age group.
4. Identify the usual causes of infections at various anatomic sites..
5. Identify the signs, symptoms, diagnostic tests and treatment modalities appropriate for various infections. This should include indications for diagnostic techniques including culture, serology, and radiographic.
6. Demonstrate knowledge of when antimicrobials, immunotherapy, invasive diagnostic procedures, or surgery is indicated in children with infections.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of commonly used antimicrobial agents, including indications for use and anticipated side effects.
8. Be knowledgeable about and be able to demonstrate knowledge of common congenital and postnatal infections.

III Practice Based Learning and Improvement:

GOAL: Residents are expected to investigate and evaluate patient care practices and to appraise and assimilate clinical information to make appropriate patient management decisions. They should learn to improve their care of any given condition as they learn more about the condition they are treating through the month.

1. Be able to demonstrate the ability to quickly access the pediatric ID literature to learn about infectious diseases.
2. Be able to identify the most effective sources of new knowledge of infectious diseases and immunology, including those in print or electronic resources.
3. Consistently evaluate individual performance, identify gaps in knowledge, and target learning to fill these gaps.
4. Demonstrate learning from error.
5. Work well with other learners to enhance the common knowledge.
6. Be able to identify evidence based diagnostic tests and treatments for symptoms of renal disease, as well as common renal problems.

IV Interpersonal and Communication Skills

GOALS: Residents are expected to consistently demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and collaboration with colleagues, patients, and their parents. They must be able to approach the patient and families in a patient-centered manner.

OBJECTIVES:

1. Demonstrate empathy and understanding for the concerns patients and families who have acute and chronic infectious diseases, and conditions requiring intrusive diagnostic tests and treatments.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the necessity of communicating effectively with referring physicians and primary care physicians.
3. Maintain accurate and timely medical records.
4. Demonstrate excellent communication skills with other members of the care team.

V Professionalism

GOALS: Residents are expected to understand and demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population.

1. Consistently act in the best interest of the patient and family.
2. Consistently demonstrate a caring and respectful demeanor when interacting with patients and families.
3. Maintain patient/family confidentiality.
4. Demonstrate prudence in the use of expensive diagnostic tests and treatments.
5. Be sensitive to the child's and family's impression of the child's condition.
6. Be sensitive to the different expectations of patients and families based on ethnic, religious and cultural diversity.
7. Respect the integrity of the child and family and their relative roles in decision making.
8. Demonstrate respect for patient modesty.

VI Systems Based Practice

GOALS: Residents are expected to practice quality health care that is cost-effective and to advocate for patients within the health care system by helping them successfully navigate through it for the best outcomes possible. They should be able to work effectively in a multi-disciplinary team of providers to aid in the best outcomes possible for renal patients.

1. Consistently advocate for patients and families and help them navigate the healthcare system by assisting them in making appointments, scheduling studies in a timely manner, and calling other providers to communicate about the patient, when necessary.
2. Describe billing and coding procedures and their supporting documentation.
3. Appropriately refer and follow up patients, when necessary.
4. Demonstrate appropriate communication and collaboration with the entire team needed for adequate treatment of seriously ill ID patients— subspecialty consultants, surgeons, dieticians, nurses, teachers, respiratory, physical and occupational therapists, pharmacists, librarians, and social workers.
5. Show understanding and sensitivity about the complex environment in which referral patients live, including family relationships, personal relationships, school, and financial needs.

References and Resources

Long SS et al. Principles and Practice of Pediatric Infectious Diseases. 2nd edition, Churchill Livingstone, 2003.

Feigin R, et al. Textbook of Pediatric Infectious Diseases, 5th edition, Saunders, 2004.

American Academy of Pediatrics. Red Book. Report of the Committee on Infectious Diseases, 2006.

UpToDate electronic resource in medicine, 2007-8.