



Hematology/Oncology Curriculum

NGMC- Family Medicine Residency Program
Gainesville, Ga

PGY: 2/3

Description of Rotation:

This is a four-week block hematology/oncology experience with direct supervision by board certified hematologist/oncologists. Supplemental longitudinal learning in the FMP supervised by Family Physician Faculty is also expected.

Overall Goals of Hematology/Oncology Rotation:

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in the US, and hematologic abnormalities are frequent in medical patients. Family physicians must therefore be familiar with the diagnosis and care of hematologic and oncologic conditions. Through this medicine selective rotation, residents will become familiar with common elements of the history, physical, differential diagnosis, and evaluation of hematology/oncology patients. Residents must be comfortable with prevention, screening, initial diagnostic evaluation and management, indications for prompt referral, and appropriate co-management of a plethora of hematologic and oncologic conditions. They must also be knowledgeable regarding indications for transfusion of blood components, management of neutropenia and immunosuppression, care for treatment-related side effects and palliative care.

Patient Care Objectives and Competencies

- PC-1: Cares for Acutely ill or injured patients in urgent and emergent situations in all settings.
- PC-2: Cares for patients with chronic conditions.
- PC-3: Partners with the patient, family, and community to improve health through disease prevention and health promotion.
- PC-4: Partners with the patient to address issues of ongoing signs, symptoms, or health concerns that remain over time without clear diagnosis despite evaluation and treatment, in a patient-centered, cost-effective manner.

Objectives:

- Take a complete history and physical of the cancer patient.
- Construct a complete differential diagnosis for a wide variety of medical problems encountered by patients in the hematology/oncology practice.
- Select appropriate hematologic/oncologic diagnostic studies and understand the significance of their results.
- Perform common diagnostic studies and, as appropriate, appreciate their difficulty, the impact on patients, and advantages and shortcomings of the studies.
- Correctly interpret peripheral blood smears demonstrating normal findings and common abnormalities.

Medical Knowledge Objectives and Competencies

- MK-1: Demonstrate medical knowledge of sufficient breadth and depth to practice family medicine.
- MK-2: Applies critical thinking skills in patient care.



Objectives:

- Reflect satisfactory understanding of the common hematologic and oncologic conditions noted above under the Educational Content.
- Understand the indications and limitations as well as technical aspects of common diagnostic procedures including:
 - Bronchoscopy and mediastinoscopy
 - Open lung biopsy and mediastinotomy
 - Mammography
 - Needle aspiration (breast and others)
 - Breast biopsy and axillary node dissection
 - Bone marrow aspiration and biopsy
 - Upper and lower GI endoscopy
 - Prostatic ultrasound and biopsy (transrectal and TUR)
 - Nuclear imaging studies, including PET
- Understand the indications, limitations, and technical aspects (lab and clinical) of transfusion of blood products.
- Understand the basic principles of major modalities of cancer treatment including:
 - Chemotherapy
 - Surgical treatment
 - Radiation therapy
 - Immunotherapy
- Understand the importance of adequate symptom management and demonstrate knowledge of specific techniques for control of pain, nausea, and anxiety.
- Medical decision making and medical management: By completion of the rotation, residents should:
- Integrate history, physical exam, and diagnostic studies to formulate a differential diagnosis, diagnostic plan, and initial management
- Plan for common hematologic and oncologic syndromes:
 - Anemia and other cytopenias
 - Disorders of homeostasis and clotting
 - Newly diagnosed common tumors (breast, colon, prostate, lung and hematologic malignancies)
- Under supervision, properly order transfusion of blood products
- Under supervision, provide appropriate palliative care

Interpersonal and Communication Skills Objectives and Competencies

- C-1: Develop meaningful, therapeutic relationships with patients and families.
- C-2: Communicates effectively with patients, families, and the public.
- C-3: Develops relationships and effectively communicates with physicians, other health professionals, and health care teams.
- C-4: Utilizes technology to optimize communication

Objectives:

- Demonstrate satisfactory communication skills necessary for the care of the dying patient and his/her family.
- Demonstrate clear and effective communication in the role of consultant.

Practice Based Learning and Improvement Objectives and Competencies:

- PBLI-1: Locates, appraises, and simulates evidence from scientific studies related to the patients' health problems
- PBLI-2: Demonstrates self-directed learning



- PGLI-3: Improves systems in which the physician provides care

Objectives:

- Understand the design of oncologic trials and the implications for clinical practice.
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuous improvement, both in personal development and in a constructive approach to the clinical curriculum and clinical operations.
- Demonstrate critical appraisal of literature relating to hematology-oncology care, and constructively participate in small group discussions, including journal club.
- Demonstrate active case-based reading.

Professionalism Objectives and Competencies:

- PROF-1: Completes a process of professionalization
- PROF-2: Demonstrates professional conduct and accountability
- PROF-3: Improves systems in which the physician provides care

Objectives: Exhibit consistently responsible, sensitive, and ethical behaviors.

- Demonstrate punctuality and personal responsibility for attendance at learning opportunities.
- Competently work with patients regarding advanced directives, DNR status, futility, and withholding or withdrawing therapy.

Systems Based Practice Objectives and Competencies

- SBP-1: Provides cost-conscious medical care
- SBP-2: Emphasizes patient safety
- SBP-3: Advocates for individual and community health
- SBP-4: Coordinates team-based care

Objectives:

- Demonstrate satisfactory knowledge of systems of care available for the care of the dying patient and his/her family, including the use of advance directives and hospice care.
- Integrate care with nurses, ancillary staff, infusion staff, social workers and faculty to contribute to efficient and effective clinic care.
- Demonstrate understanding of the circumstances under which the family physician should consult other health care professionals, including hematology-oncology subspecialists, surgeons, radiation oncologists, nutritionists, etc.