

Virtual Clinical Support – Inpatient Medicine

Welcome from Course Directors

Hi everyone! Thank you for registering for the Virtual Clinical Support – Inpatient Medicine elective. We are excited to have students contribute to the inpatient medicine services, while furthering your training as you prepare to be interns in the near future!

Course Directors:

Course Administrator:

Course Overview

In this two-week elective, students will have the opportunity to meaningfully contribute to the clinical care of hospitalized patients during the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, while remaining physically removed from direct patient contact. Students will join an inpatient medicine team five days a week for virtual rounds and will follow the hospital course of 3-5 patients through chart review and direct communication with interns/residents. Students will assist care teams by drafting discharge summaries and patient discharge instructions to increase the efficiency of frontline providers while allowing students to continue clinical learning. Students will conduct research on clinical questions and share evidence-based medicine (EBM) findings with their teams. Students may have the opportunity to take on additional duties as deemed appropriate by their clinical teams. For example, prior students have contacted patients, families, and outpatient providers or drafted assessments and plans for new admissions. Before students are assigned to clinical teams, they will first complete a practice discharge summary on a sample patient and send it to the course directors for approval and feedback. While on clinical teams, students will be paired with a partner for peer review of discharge summaries. Additional reading and a written reflection will also be assigned. Students who participate in this elective will need to be dedicated and pay special attention to detail and communication given the remote manner of the work.

Course Objectives

1. Summarize the purpose and audience of a discharge summary
2. Effectively and efficiently synthesize discharge summaries and discharge instructions through chart review - including notes, laboratory data, imaging, and other sources - and communicate with the primary medical team in an efficient manner
3. Communicate a patient's follow-up needs to the patient's outpatient care team, including primary care providers or specialist providers
4. Demonstrate strong communication skills in the setting of remote clinical work
5. Relate clinical decision-making by inpatient teams to illness scripts
6. Report an increase in confidence writing discharge summaries and instructions
7. Develop skills for providing formative feedback to adult learners

Course Structure

Prior to Week 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Watch "Introduction to Discharge Summaries" video - Active Learning Assignment: "Virtual Clinical Support Elective Preparation" - Review course syllabus
Week 1 - 2 (5 days per week)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clinical Activity: Attend virtual rounds with primary team - Optional (if available): Attend virtual resident noon conference - Afternoon: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clinical Activity: Chart review, communicate with primary team, update discharge summaries and discharge instructions, - Peer review: provide feedback/edits on peer's discharge summaries - Assignments: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 Evidence-Based Medicine mini-presentations to team (virtual) - 2 Discharge Summary Rubrics - Final Reflection (~500 words)

See below for details about the assignments

Pedagogy	Percent time	General timing (note vary depending on faculty availability)
Virtual patient care	92%	8:30AM -10:30AM synchronous 10:30AM-4:00PM variable: assisting primary team
Synchronous online	2% (optional residency lectures, if available)	12:30PM-1:30PM (optional and institution-dependent)
Asynchronous online	6%	N/A

Student Assignments

- Virtual Clinical Support Elective Preparation – due **by 10:00AM** on the **Sunday preceding elective start date**
 - Adapted from Czapka M, Raff A, Risley M. Safe Transitions: An active learning module for discharge summaries and interprofessional care. MedEdPORTAL iCollaborative. 2017
 - Students will read the “Discharge Planning Student Guide”. Based on a sample case, students will write a discharge summary and using a provided rubric, grade their own summary. They will then compare their work to an “Expert Reveal” and write a short (~150 words) reflection. They will submit the summary to a course director for review.
- Review course website materials prior to starting the course
 - Documents include:
 - Virtual Clinical Support Workflow
 - Watch “Introduction to Discharge Summaries” in Class Recordings
- Clinical Work
 - This will include writing discharge summaries and discharge patient instructions for those assigned to you by your clinical team.
 - Students have the option of joining the internal medicine residency noon conference daily at 12:30pm (will vary by institution)
 - Students are encouraged to work with their clinical teams in defining additional clinical duties based on the circumstances. This will require being both flexible and creative. Previous students have communicated with outpatient providers, called consults, developed assessments and plans for new admissions, and obtained collateral information from patients and their families. Some students have reported success in using virtual video-conferencing software to join their team for rounds.
- Creation of two Evidence-Based Medicine (EBM) mini-presentations (one per week)
 - Students will conduct research on clinical questions and share evidence-based medicine findings with their teams weekly via email
- Submission of two Discharge Summary Rubrics
 - Students will formally review one discharge summary with a resident or attending on their primary team and receive feedback verbally and through the provided rubric by the midpoint of the course. Students will formally review a second discharge summary with a peer and upload the completed rubric to Canvas by the end of the course.
 - First Discharge Summary Rubric completed by a resident/attending due by **first Sunday** of the course **by 11:59PM**
 - Second Discharge Summary Rubric completed by paired medical student due **after the first week but by the Sunday following course end by 11:59PM**
- Final reflection (~500 words) based on one or more of the following prompts - due on **Sunday** following course end **by 11:59PM**
 - What has it been like to be virtually involved in rounds and patient care? How are team dynamics different virtually versus in person? What do you think the future of telehealth is outside of this pandemic? What are the positives and negatives of virtual healthcare?
 - How does the role of the physician change during a pandemic? How has the care of patients changed? What do you believe is going well? What do you believe can be improved upon?

- What have you learned about transitions of care? How can we improve care coordination between inpatient and outpatient providers?

Communication

As you can imagine, communication with the rest of the care team is essential for this elective. We recommend that students reach out to their in-person resident the Sunday before the elective starts. This resident should be the point-person in dividing up work for the medical team and making sure the student(s) is involved in team communications. It may be helpful to explicitly discuss communication styles with your team on the first day of the rotation to figure out the best modes of communication (e.g. a HIPAA-compliant text thread for everyone to use for post-rounds communication).

Course Grading

This course will be graded pass/fail. In order to receive a Pass grade, students must consistently complete discharge summaries and other clinical tasks assigned to them in a timely and accurate manner, participate in virtual rounds, maintain close communication with housestaff teams, provide thoughtful feedback on peer discharge summaries, share evidence-based medicine findings, and complete all assignments as listed above by the provided deadlines.