

# Family Medicine Clerkship

## Curriculum Resources



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## Dementia

### OVERVIEW

### TOPIC LEARNING GOALS AND OBJECTIVES (Organized by ACGME Competencies)

#### Patient Care

GOAL: Students will accurately assess a patient who presents with a change in mental status.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Perform a comprehensive history and physical assessment of a patient with altered mental status.
- Perform a Mini-Mental Status exam on a patient with altered mental status.

GOAL: Students will appropriately discuss dementia.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Describe to patients and their families/caregivers the prognosis of patients who are diagnosed with dementia.

GOAL: Students will be sensitive to individual and cultural differences in the development of treatment plans for patients with dementia.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Discuss with patients and families the importance of environment in improving quality of life for the patient with dementia.
- Develop treatment plans for a patient with dementia in the context of each patient's life and environment.
- Incorporate input from family and caregivers into the management plan.

#### Medical Knowledge

GOAL: Students will distinguish between dementia and delirium.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Discuss the differences in history and presentation between dementia and delirium.
- List the differential diagnosis of dementia and delirium.

**GOAL:** Students will recognize the psychological and socioeconomic impact of dementia on a patient and the family/caregivers.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Describe the natural progression of illness in a patient with dementia.
- Explain the roles of family and caregivers in the care of the patient with dementia.

**GOAL:** Students will understand the rationale for the management of the patient with dementia.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Describe appropriate therapies for the patient with dementia including the role of PT/OT, nursing, home care, hospice, and other community organizations.
- Discuss the need for environmental modifications to enhance function of the patient with dementia.
- Discuss commonly used medications in the treatment of dementia including cost-effectiveness.

## **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**

**GOAL:** Students will understand the role of the family physician in caring for the patient with dementia in practice and community settings (e.g., home care, nursing home, or assisted living).

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Perform a home assessment of a patient with dementia.
- Interview a caregiver of patient with dementia.
- Describe the role of the practice in providing care to the patient with dementia across multiple settings.

**GOAL:** Students will bring up-to-date evidence to the point of clinical care.

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Identify gaps in their own knowledge and frame appropriate clinical questions relating to the care of the patient with dementia.

## **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

**GOAL:** Students will understand the importance of effective communication with demented patients and their families/caregivers:

**OBJECTIVES:** Students will be able to:

- Counsel a family and patient on the long-term treatment plans for a demented patient, including the integration of available social services.
- Include patients and families in the development of treatment plans.

- Demonstrate effective listening skills and empathy to family members and caregivers who are involved in the care of a patient with dementia.

## Professionalism

GOAL: Students will care for patients with dementia from diverse patient backgrounds and in different settings.

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Respond helpfully to demented patients and their families/caregivers who are not adhering to treatment plans.
- Reflect on personal frustrations when patients are not adherent to plans.
- Analyze the role of caregiver in relationship to culture, age, gender, and disabilities.

## Systems-Based Practice

GOAL: Students will understand the impact of health care systems and environment on the health outcomes of patients with dementia

OBJECTIVES: Students will be able to:

- Access community-based services available in the practice community to assist in the care of the patient with dementia.
- Analyze barriers to effective integrated care of the patient with dementia (e.g., financial and political barriers).
- Consider the role of other disciplines (e.g., nursing, social work, and PT/OT, in addition to community agencies) in the care of the patient with dementia.

## EDUCATIONAL METHODS AND RESOURCES

### Problem-Based Learning

- [Rich Usatine](#) has a PBL case.
- [Mark Quirk](#) has a PBL case, and information on a videotape on how to do the Mini Mental State Exam - Jeff Cummings is the creator of the videotape.

### Published Material

- [UK Gateway](#) to Dementia information

### Contact People

- [STFM Group On Geriatric Education](#) - Chris Arenson

### Other

- PDA Resources - for example [Inforetriever](#) has a MMSE tool

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For questions or comments, please contact [Webmaster](#) or [Ardis Davis](#)

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