

**Name of rotation:**        **Neurology Consultation Service**                                **Department: Neurology**

**Course Director:**        **Barney J. Stern, M.D.**    **Site(s): VA**

**Duration of rotation:**         **one month only**  
     **2 weeks possible**

**General description of the rotation including educational purpose, rationale or value:**

This rotation consists of daily consultative care of neurological inpatients at the VA Hospital. Residents are exposed to a set of neurological patients, i.e., elderly male population who manifest unique neurologic dilemmas. The goal of this rotation is to acquaint the resident with recognizing neurologic disease and understanding the appropriate work-up and management, which would be pursued in both the consultative and ambulatory settings.

**Resident responsibilities, including interns and residents:**

Residents are expected to perform initial consultations and work-up follow-through. They are expected to present these patients on attending rounds and be responsible for making appropriate recommendations. The residents also attend Neurology Clinic 2-3 ½-days/week.

**Educational Objectives:** An expanded version of the competencies is listed under Core Competencies in Internal Medicine. Those listed here are specific to this rotation. Since residents may choose this elective during any year of training, PGY-1 goals and objectives are distinct for those for upper level residents, and PGY-2 and 3 goals and objectives are similar.

**During this rotation, the PGY-1 resident will:**

**Patient Care**

1. Obtain an appropriate neurological history and review of systems.
2. Perform a complete neurological examination and understand its value in localizing a diagnosis.
3. Follow-up on testing of patients and make management recommendations after discussion with the attending.
4. Learn routine work-ups for common neurological problems.

**Medical Knowledge**

1. Learn various treatment options of chronic and acute patients.
2. Identify common neurologic problems and describe their treatment.
3. Identify and understand the mechanisms of commonly used neurologic medications as well as understand side effects.
4. Become familiar with review of neurologic and radiographic data.

**Practice-Based Learning**

1. Become familiar with some of the neurologic literature that exists.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills** – See Core Competencies

**Professionalism** – See Core Competencies

**System-Based Practice** – See Core Competencies

1. Become familiar with common reasons neurologists' are consulted.
2. Recommend appropriate testing on the patients with attention to cost efficacy.

**During this rotation, the PGY-2 or 3 resident will:**

**Patient Care**

1. Independently perform an appropriate neurological history and review of systems.
2. Complete a comprehensive neurological examination and demonstrate ability to localize disease.
3. Recommend diagnostic testing and management after discussion with the attending.
4. Learn routine work-ups for common neurological problems.

**Medical Knowledge**

1. Describe various treatment options of chronic and acute patients.
2. Identify common neurologic problems and describe their treatment.
3. Identify and understand the mechanisms of commonly used neurologic medications as well as understand side effects.
4. Enhance familiarity with review of neurologic and radiographic data.

**Practice-Based Learning**

1. Search primary source literature to answer questions posed in discussions about patients with neurologic disease.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills** – See Core Competencies

**Professionalism** – See Core Competencies

**System-Based Practice** – See Core Competencies

1. List common reasons neurologists are consulted.
2. Recommend appropriate and cost effective testing on the patients based on evidence base medicine.

**Check all principle teaching methods used during this rotation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Attending teaching rounds	<input type="checkbox"/>	Interdisciplinary rounds
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Patient management discussions	<input type="checkbox"/>	Small group discussions
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Conferences specific to rotation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bedside clinical rounds
<input type="checkbox"/>	Individual instruction of procedures	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review of diagnostic studies, including radiology
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____		

**Describe the most important educational content, including the mix of diseases, patient characteristics, types of clinical encounters, procedures and services:**

The patient population at the VA Hospital is mostly elderly male. Residents are asked to perform inpatient bedside examinations and recommend appropriate testing with possible therapeutic intervention. Residents may also be asked to see an occasional patient who presents to the VA screening clinic with a more acute problem. Most common diagnostic entities seen at this hospital include neurologic complication of cancer, back pain, seizures, cerebrovascular accident, transient ischemic attacks, headache, Parkinson's disease, neurodegenerative disorders and dementia. Participating in the VA outpatient neurology clinic adds an extra dimension to diagnoses seen.

**Check the principal ancillary education materials used:**

<input type="checkbox"/>	Reading lists	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pathologic material
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Radiologic studies	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other noninvasive studies
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Handouts on relevant topics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Articles from the literature
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____	<input type="checkbox"/>	Case studies

**Methods used to evaluate the resident and the rotation:**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of residency performance and professionalism
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Evaluation of attending teaching skills and other attributes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rotation assessment by resident
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Observation of resident's clinical competency
<input type="checkbox"/>	Observation of resident's leadership and teaching skills
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Review of the resident's history/physical exam, progress notes and documentation of procedures in the chart
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Resident's attendance of rounds and conferences monitored
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other: _____

**Identify strengths and limitations specific to the resources of the sponsoring institution:**

The VA Hospital is a new institution and affords the resident with all the most modern technology and ancillary services.

**Conferences or Attending/Patient Care Rounds:** (Journal club, division rounds, etc.)

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>
Daily Attending Rounds	VA	Daily	TBA
Grand Rounds	VA	Wednesday	9:00 am
Clinical Neurology Conference	VA	Wednesday	10:00 am

**Clinics:**

Neurology Clinic	VA	M,Tu,F	12:30 pm
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*The resident and faculty members of the Postgraduate Education Committee reviewed and edited the content of this curriculum at its meeting on 7/18/07.*