

**Name of rotation:**    **Ambulatory Gastroenterology and Hepatology Clinics  
National Institutes of Health Clinical Center**

**Course director:**    **Stephen Wank, MD**

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

The NIH ambulatory subspecialty clinic experience provides a longitudinal experience in gastroenterology and hepatology for two half days per week during the second and third years of the fellowship. This ambulatory experience at the NIH Clinical Center allows fellows to acquire clinical proficiency in the evaluation and management of outpatients, with appropriate application of this knowledge to patient problems. This knowledge encompasses common and uncommon disorders in gastroenterology and hepatology, the natural history of digestive diseases, factors involved in managing nutritional problems, surgical procedures employed in relation to the digestive system, and judicious use of specialized instruments and tests in the diagnosis and management of digestive disorders. Method of teaching is specific clinical interaction and clinical presentation with a discussion of a differential diagnosis and development of an ambulatory treatment plan. Opportunities are available for the management of post surgical problems as well as the evaluation and referral to surgery for appropriate indications. Cultural, ethical, and socioeconomic factors are integrated into a discussion of the care of each patient and what is appropriate for them.

**Fellow responsibilities:**

The fellows are expected to serve as outpatient consultants for ambulatory patients referred from internal medicine, surgery, and other subspecialty services at the NIH Clinical Center. All Clinical Center patients are enrolled in an NIH research protocol, although not necessarily from within the Digestive Diseases Branch, and their reason for consultation may or may not be related to their underlying illness or treatment. The fellows see no more than 4-8 new outpatients weekly and are provided with ample ancillary staff to support their clinical and research activities.

At the initial visit, the fellow is responsible for performing a complete history and physical examination and documenting the encounter. With appropriate guidance, the fellow also helps determine the appropriate diagnostic tests, including laboratory, radiographic, or endoscopic evaluations. Once the fellow evaluates a patient, they assume care for that patient for the remainder of their fellowship. At the end of their fellowship, the patients are passed down to fellows in the second year of their training. A progressively increasing level of responsibility provided to the fellows over their two years in this rotation.

All patient phone calls are referred by the staff to the fellow providing longitudinal care to that patient. Fellows are encouraged to see their patients when they are hospitalized and provide input regarding their care. When possible, the fellow caring for a specific patient is encouraged to perform the endoscopic procedures on their patient and to provide appropriate outpatient follow-up when indicated. They are expected to be in clinic every week except during vacation or holidays.

**Educational objectives:** An expanded version of the competencies is listed under Core Competencies in Gastroenterology. Those listed here are specific to this rotation.

**During this rotation, the F-1 fellow will:**

**Patient Care**

1. Gather essential and accurate information about the patient.
2. Evaluate not fewer than 3 or greater than 7 new patients per scheduled 1/2-day session when averaged over the year.
3. Make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions based on patient information, current scientific evidence, clinical judgment, and patient preference.
4. Carry out patient management plans, including appropriate follow up of all diagnostic tests ordered.
5. Accurately document information gathered from as well as given to each patient.
6. Provide effective health maintenance and anticipatory guidance.

**Medical Knowledge**

1. Discuss the diagnosis and treatment of common problems encountered in an outpatient GI clinic
2. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical problem solving and knowledge acquisition.

**Practice-based Learning**

1. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
2. Develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

1. Demonstrate the ability to create and maintain a therapeutic relationship with patients and families.
2. Communicate effectively and respectfully with other members of the health care team.

**Professionalism** – see master list for these competencies

**System-Based Practice**

1. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
2. Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities.
3. Partner with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve health care through discussions and conferences as needed.
4. Facilitate the learning of students, residents, and other health care professionals.

**During this rotation, the F-2 fellow will:**

**Patient Care**

1. Gather essential and accurate information about the patient independently.
2. Evaluate not fewer than 3 or greater than 7 new patients per scheduled 1/2-day session when averaged over the year.
3. Make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions based on patient information, current scientific evidence, clinical judgment, and patient preference.
4. Carry out patient management plans, including appropriate follow up of all diagnostic tests ordered with intermittent attending consultation.
5. Accurately document information gathered from as well as given to each patient.

6. Provide effective health maintenance and anticipatory guidance for all patients.

### **Medical Knowledge**

1. Continue to expand expertise regarding problems encountered in an outpatient GI clinic
2. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical problem solving and knowledge acquisition.

### **Practice-based Learning**

1. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
2. Develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

1. Demonstrate the ability to create and maintain a therapeutic relationship with patients and families.
2. Communicate effectively and respectfully with other members of the health care team.

**Professionalism** – see master list for these competencies

### **System-Based Practice**

1. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
2. Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities.
3. Partner with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve health care through discussions and conferences as needed.
4. Facilitate the learning of students, residents, and other health care professionals.

### **During this rotation, the F-3 fellow will:**

#### **Patient Care**

1. Gather essential and accurate information about the patient efficiently and with minimal attending assistance.
2. Evaluate not fewer than 4 new patients per scheduled 1/2-day session when averaged over the year.
3. Make informed diagnostic and therapeutic decisions based on patient information, current scientific evidence, clinical judgment, and patient preference.
4. Carry out patient management plans, including appropriate follow up of all diagnostic tests ordered independently.
5. Accurately document information gathered from as well as given to each patient.
6. Provide effective health maintenance and anticipatory guidance for all patients.

#### **Medical Knowledge**

1. Identify deficiencies and expand expertise in problems encountered in an outpatient GI clinic
2. Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical problem solving and knowledge acquisition.

#### **Practice-based Learning**

1. Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' health problems.
2. Develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors.

#### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

1. Demonstrate the ability to create and maintain a therapeutic relationship with patients and families.

2. Communicate effectively and respectfully with other members of the health care team.

**Professionalism** – see master list for these competencies

**System-Based Practice**

1. Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
2. Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities.
3. Partner with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve health care through discussions and conferences as needed.
4. Facilitate the learning of students, residents, and other health care professionals.

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

	Attending teaching rounds		Interdisciplinary rounds
X	Patient management discussions	X	Small group discussions
X	Conferences	X	Bedside clinical rounds
X	Individual instruction of procedures	X	Review of diagnostic studies, including radiology
	Other:		

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

Fellows care for patients with a broad mix of gastrointestinal illnesses. The attending gastroenterologist is responsible for reviewing all patients. Clinical encounters include outpatient visits and attending discussions. Procedures are done by fellows under the direct guidance and supervision of attending physicians.

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

	Reading lists		Pathologic material
X	Radiologic studies		Other noninvasive studies
X	Handouts on relevant topics	X	Articles from the literature
	Other:		Case studies

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

X	Evaluation of fellow performance and professionalism
X	Evaluation of attending teaching skills and other attributes
X	Rotation assessment by fellow
X	Observation of fellow’s clinical competency
X	Observation of fellow’s leadership and teaching skills
X	Review of the fellow’s history/physical exam, progress notes, and documentation of procedures
X	Fellow’s attendance of rounds and conferences monitored
	Other:

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

The hospital strengthens this rotation by providing supportive ancillary services including phlebotomy, augmented unit clerk activities, and nurse scheduling of procedures. The computer system facilitates access to clinical laboratory and radiological data, medications, and nutrition. Radiology and laboratory services are available.

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