

Family Medicine Objectives

The central goal of the Family Medicine clerkship is to help you to enhance your skills in applying the Patient-Centred Clinical Method to understand the patient's personal experience of their illness and find common ground regarding management decisions. This includes:

- Becoming effective in interviewing patients
- Conducting a skilled and sensitive physical assessment
- Enhancing your clinical reasoning skills
- Finding and using the best evidence available
- Applying the principles of prevention whenever possible
- Understanding each patient in the context of the “big picture” – the patient as a person, their family and community and their ecosystem
- Demonstrating professional behaviour when interacting with patients, colleagues and staff.

Students are assigned to communities throughout the province for part of their clerkship. To ensure that minimum competencies and objectives are encountered, the Family Medicine Tracking Form was created as an adjunct to the tracking book that the overall clerkship requires of students. Though completion of all elements on the tracking form is not a requirement to pass the rotation, deficiencies noted on the form will be discussed at the exit interview for purposes of developing remedial opportunities.

1. Medical Expert/Decision Maker

- a) Present a pertinent history and conduct a relevant physical exam, under supervision, on an adult or elderly patients presenting with the following complaints:
 - i. new or chronic cough
 - ii. fatigue
 - iii. low back pain
 - iv. fever
 - v. shortness of breath
 - vi. abdominal or pelvic pain
 - vii. headache
 - viii. dizziness
 - ix. chest pain
 - x. lower leg swelling
- b) Present a relevant and focused differential diagnosis to your supervisor, on an adult or elderly patient presenting with the following complaints:
 - i. new or chronic cough
 - ii. fatigue
 - iii. low back pain
 - iv. fever
 - v. shortness of breath
 - vi. abdominal or pelvic pain
 - vii. headache
 - viii. dizziness
 - ix. chest pain

- x. lower leg swelling
- c) Describe (to your supervisor and/or the patient) an approach to the management of the following presenting complaints in an adult or elderly patient:
- i. new or chronic cough
 - ii. fatigue
 - iii. low back pain
 - iv. fever
 - v. shortness of breath
 - vi. abdominal or pelvic pain
 - vii. headache
 - viii. dizziness
 - ix. chest pain
 - x. lower leg swelling
- d) The student will conduct (under supervision) a relevant history and physical exam for an adult or elderly patient with established diabetes presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic for a diabetic check-up.
- e) The student will manage (under supervision) an adult or elderly patient with established diabetes presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic for a diabetic check-up. The student should also list the pertinent screening procedures done for a patient with diabetes.
- f) The student will manage (under supervision) an adult or elderly patient presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic with either established hypertension or established dyslipidemia. The management should include a discussion with the patient and/or supervisor of the appropriate medications, their common side effects and alternative treatments.
- g) The student will participate in the care of an elderly patient, either in a long-term care facility, the acute care setting (i.e., the emergency department) or the out-patient family medicine clinic under the direction of their supervisor.
- h) The student will demonstrate a prenatal exam (under supervision) on a female adult patient (as measured by completion of appropriate procedures and examination as directed by the antenatal flow sheets).
- i) Given an infant, child or adult presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic, the student will administer an intramuscular or subcutaneous immunization under supervision.
- j) Given an infant presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic, the student will demonstrate a well-baby exam under supervision.
- k) Given an adult female patient presenting to the family medicine out-patient clinic, the student will perform a pap smear where appropriate.

2. Communicator/Educator/Humanist/Healer

- a) Given an adult between the ages of 50-70 presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic, the student will demonstrate a periodic health exam under supervision and will list to the supervisor relevant screening procedures appropriate for the patient in question.
- b) Conduct patient-centered interviews that explore the patient's feelings, ideas, impact on function, and expectations.
- c) Develop relationships with patients characterized by compassion, empathy, respect, and genuineness, demonstrating a willingness to collaborate with the patient about management.
- d) Perform a physical examination without causing the patient embarrassment.
- e) Adapt treatment plans to the individual with consideration for the patient's age, general health, special needs, expectations, cultural background, progress, or changes in condition.
- f) Demonstrate skill in communication of information with clear, concise explanations that are understandable to patients.
- g) Recognize risk factors and be able to counsel patients on risk reduction.

3. Health Advocate

- a) Identify the rights and legal responsibilities of physicians to patients and the community.
- b) Describe the determinants of health and apply them appropriately to enhance individual and community well being.
- c) Apply the concept of cost-effectiveness to public health interventions.

4. Learner/Scholar

- a) Demonstrate skill in self-directed learning by:
 - i. Ability to identify areas of deficiency in one's own knowledge and skills.
 - ii. Ability to find appropriate educational resources.
 - iii. Ability to evaluate personal learning progress.
 - iv. Ability to use new knowledge in the care of patients.
- b) Determine the validity and applicability of published data through critical appraisal.

5. Professional/Collaborator/Person

- a) Given a patient of any age presenting to the out-patient family medicine clinic or acute care setting (i.e., the emergency department), the student will demonstrate skill in finding common ground when differences of opinion exist.
- b) Demonstrate the ability to work effectively as a member of a team, as participant or leader.
- c) Collaborate effectively with patients and families without having to take charge.

- d) Demonstrate skill in finding common ground when differences of opinion exist.
- e) Establish effective relationships with colleagues and other member of the health care team by:
 - i. Considering their suggestions and criticisms.
 - ii. Tactful handling of differences of opinion.
- f) Demonstrates the ability to place the needs of patients and families first.
- g) Demonstrates honesty and trustworthiness in assessment, study and learning.
- h) Demonstrates responsibility and respect.
- i) Recognize personal biases and ensure that they do not interfere with the patient's best interests.
- j) Be willing to seek help, advice or consultation when needed.
- k) Respond to personal and family needs and develop effective support systems.

6. Resource Manager/Gatekeeper/Steward

- a) Use the concepts of evidence-based medicine to guide patient care decisions.
- b) Assist patients in accessing the health care system for physical, psychological, social, and economic rehabilitation or long-term care.
- c) Identify potential conflict between individual and population interests and seek advice from others.

7. Scientist

- a) Assess the effectiveness of practice and engage in continuous quality improvement.

Academic Half-Day at the Middlesex-London Health Unit

Clinical Clerks who rotate through a Family Medical Centre in London will attend a ½ day session hosted by the staff at the Middlesex-London Health Unit. This session will give students an opportunity to review Public Health Principals, the role of the Medical Officer of Health and the services of the Health Unit. In addition, you will attend a session with a community partner of the health unit. These sessions may involve visits with various vulnerable populations.

Learning Objectives for the MLHU Half-Day

1. To increase the student's knowledge of public health (i.e. health protection, disease prevention, health promotion, population health, and determinants of health).
2. To increase the student's knowledge of the role of public health units.
3. To raise awareness of how physicians can work effectively with public health units.

Structure of the Rotation

This six week rotation is divided into two-week and four-week blocks. During the four-week block, you will work with a family physician preceptor in a private practice in London or in a smaller community anywhere in Ontario. You will spend the two-week block with a family practice team in one of the family medicine teaching units in London and Mount Brydges. This experience has been designed to give you an appreciation of the scope of Family Medicine, the importance of the doctor/patient relationship, and the role of family medicine in the community. Whatever your plans for residency, this rotation is a valuable learning opportunity for patient care in a family practice context. You will develop experience in dealing with the common problems that are seen in family medicine, in accessing community services, and in working on a team within a health care system that is changing and becoming more and more directed to ambulatory, multi-disciplinary care.

End of Rotation Interview and Examination

At the end of your six week rotation, students are required to attend an exit interview in either of London or Windsor depending on your clerkship location. During this ½ day, you will sit an exit examination, and meet with the Clerkship Director (London) or Academic Director (Windsor). Attendance at this session is mandatory. You are to bring your tracking form, and evaluations to this session. You will receive an email reminder about the exit interview and examination during your rotation.

Assessment

Students are assessed on their performance in the Family Medical Centre and in the community setting largely on the basis of the quality of their clinical assessment of patients and the professional manner in which they carry out their responsibilities. Students are graded as either Pass or Fail on each of the four components of the Family Medicine Clerkship (FMC two-week block, community four-week block, the Project, and the end of rotation examination). Students must pass all four. A failure on any one aspect will constitute a failure of the rotation. If granted remediation, the remediation will be tailored to the particular learning needs of the student.

Project: Student must complete a project during the two-week block in the Family Medical Centre. This project must be presented orally in a 15-minute presentation as well as submitted in writing before the end of the two-week block.

Duties of the Clerk

Teaching Sessions:

In both the two-week and four-week Family Medicine rotations, students are requested to contact their assigned family medical centre /community physician **prior to their rotation** to arrange where and when to meet, and to make special arrangements if the starting date falls on a statutory holiday, or if the student's one-week holiday time falls during the rotation. This is also your opportunity to clarify any on-call scheduling expectations that may fall on the first few days of your rotation.

- a) Two Weeks in One of the Family Medicine Teaching Centres: A specific supervisor will be assigned by the Family Medical Centre. Reporting instructions for the first morning are as follows:

Family Medical Centre	Time and Place
Byron Family Medical Centre 1228 Commissioners Rd West London, ON N6K 1C7	Email the Centre contacts one week prior to the start of the rotation if you have not received a notice from them. Contact: Christie Moore, Christie.moore@lhsc.on.ca or Linda Hobbs linda.hobbs@lhsc.on.ca
St. Joseph's Family Medical Centre 346 Platt's Lane London, ON N6J 1J1	Contact: Tajana Jokic tajana.jokic@sjhc.london.on.ca
Southwest Middlesex Health Centre (corner of Hwy 81 and Mill Road) 22262 Mill Road Mount Brydges, ON NOL 1W0 519-264-2800 *see stipend info below	Mary-Anne Risser at the Centre will send you the schedule a week before your rotation. Contact: Mary-Anne Risser Maryanne@smhc.net
Victoria Family Medical Centre 60 Chesley Ave London, ON N5Z 2C1	9:00 a.m. for weekend sign-in rounds in the Board Room at the Centre. Contact: Erin Chapman 519-685-8500 ext. 71224 or Amanda Grant 519-685-8500 ext. 71242

b) Four Weeks with a Family Medicine Community Physician: The four-week community rotation (which will take place either prior to the two-week family medical centre portion or immediately following) will be spent with a community family physician in London, communities outside of London, ERMEP, NOSM, or ROMP. Please contact the practice at least one month ahead to receive reporting instructions.

Stipend Information:

a) Two-Week Family Medical Centre Rotation: *Those clerks who are placed in Mount Brydges at the Southwest Middlesex Health Centre will be paid \$176.00 for mileage. Mileage is not paid for placements at one of the other London Family Medical Centres. You will be reimbursed at the end of your rotation and expense cheques will be placed in your Western student mailbox.

b) Four-Week Community Rotation Outside of London: The Department of Family Medicine provides a stipend to help defray the cost of accommodation and/or mileage. You will be reimbursed at the end of your rotation and expense cheques will be placed in your Western student mailbox.

**** Exceptions:**

- Those accepted for the ERMEP, NOSM and ROMP programs, which provides their own transportation and accommodation.

Faculty Awards

Students have long identified many different members of the Department of Family Medicine as being great teachers. Until now, there has not been a formal means of acknowledging the hard work and numerous contributions of the department members in the Undergraduate Curriculum.

The award nominees will be reviewed along with the clerkship student awards in September of each year.

The awards will have a monetary value as listed below and will also be represented by a plaque given to award winners as well as a plaque that will be housed in the Departmental offices in London. The

names of the winners will also be posted on our website and be announced in our quarterly newsletter. Students will be invited to nominate teachers at the end of their clerkship rotation.

Link to Award Information: <http://www.familymedicineuwo.ca/undergraduate/Awards.aspx>

Housestaff Award

This award is given to a resident who has been identified by the students as providing excellent mentorship and clinical teaching during the undergraduate years.

Value: Complimentary Registration to Annual Clinical Day or \$100

Adjunct Award

This award is given to an adjunct faculty member who has been identified by the students as providing excellent mentorship, clinical and/or classroom teaching during the undergraduate years.

Value: Complimentary Registration to Annual Clinical Day

Fulltime Award

This award is given to a fulltime faculty member who has been identified by the students as providing excellent mentorship, clinical and/or classroom teaching during the undergraduate years.

Value: Complimentary Registration to Annual Clinical Day

Resources

<http://www.familymedicineuwo.ca/undergraduate/resources.aspx>

A set of online cases is accessible from the clerkship website to enhance your learning experience: <http://www.familymedicineuwo.ca/undergraduate/students/year3/Cases.aspx>. These cases were developed by students with assistance from faculty. They are intended to help you learn some of the basic principles of family medicine and some practical approaches to common problems in practice. Students are strongly encouraged to work through one case per week during the six weeks of clerkship in Family Medicine.

Recommended Reading:

McWhinney, IR, Freeman, T, *A Textbook of Family Medicine, Third Edition, New York: Oxford University Press, 2009.* Read the short selections from the book on the following website: <http://www.uwo.ca/fammed/ian/index.htm>.

Read around patients seen in the practice using the family medicine literature especially the following journals: Canadian Family Physician, American Family Physician, Family Practice, Annals of Family Medicine, and the Journal of Family Practice. All of these journals are available full text online through the Allyan and Betty Taylor Library at Western. See the Outreach Library link at <http://www.lib.uwo.ca/taylor/outreach/>.

For students interested in a family medicine textbook, we strongly recommend Evans M (Editor): ***Mosby's Family Practice Sourcebook – An Evidence-Based Approach to Care*** 4th edition. Toronto: Elsevier Mosby, 2006.