Specialty Clinics Rotation – VA Geropsychiatry

Description: This experience occurs during the six week geriatric specialty clinic rotation for ½ day/week. The fellow will work with a team comprised of a geriatric psychiatrist, geriatric social worker and nurse. Analysis of the interplay of psychiatric illness, medical illness and many associated factors is accomplished by employing the Wisconsin Star Method. This complements the weekly experience whereby the geriatrics fellow works with a geriatric psychiatrist in their GEM clinics delivering basic management of mental health issues in their primary care patients.

Supervisor: Dr. Timothy Jeurgens
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Goals:
This experience assists the fellow in feeling confident and prepared to diagnose and treat psychiatric or behavior disorders in aging patients with disturbances of brain structure/function, poor coping mechanisms and/or poor social support systems. Furthermore, it will emphasize the link between psychiatric illness, neurodegenerative illnesses and life-long personality styles and characteristics.

Objectives and Steps to Evaluate Competency in this Objective
The fellow will be able to
(Medical Knowledge)
- Detail some of the biopsychosocial factors that shape normal and abnormal thoughts, feelings, and behaviors in older adults
- Identify the factors that contribute to the development of new psychiatric morbidity in late life (e.g. depression, anxiety, psychosis, cognitive impairment, and agitated behaviors)

As measured by global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation

(Patient Care)
- Increase fellow’s skills in efficiently gathering clinical information from patients and collateral sources (e.g. family, caregivers) and effectively synthesizing that data into clinical formulations
- Implement treatment plans that include interventions that are appropriate, effective, and well tolerated by elderly patients including psychopharmacology, supportive psychotherapy, and case management
- Discern when it is appropriate to refer older patients for psychological and neuropsychological testing to enhance the assessment process

As measured by 1) global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation and 2) multisource appraisals completed by SW and nursing

(Interpersonal and Communication Skills)
- Learn about interviewing older patients with psychiatric problems in an empathic manner, as well as establishing therapeutic alliances with them
As measured by 1) global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation and 2) mini-CEX on communication, therapeutic alliance and patient education

(Professionalism)
- Develop a professional identity as an internist working with mentally ill geriatric patients, based upon sound ethical principles, including a respect for older patients, the dilemmas they face, and the values they hold
As measured by 1) global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation
As measured by 1) global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation and 2) mini-CEX on communication, therapeutic alliance and patient education

(Systems-based Practice)
- Gain an introduction to working with community-dwelling chronically mentally ill older patients, as well as at interacting effectively with home care team members
- Demonstrate a basic understanding of available community resources for home care patients with late-life psychiatric disease including such programs as subsidized housing, Mobile Outreach for Seniors Team, transportation services, case management and others, and how to access these

As measured by 1) global rating scales completed by faculty mentors at the end of the rotation, 2) multisource appraisals completed by social work (SW) and nursing, and 3) fellow-directed chart audits of their primary care patients in GEM that review documentation of the screening for late-life depression and the process of referral of patients for community services

Type of Clinical Encounter
Clinic evaluation of patient with supervision by faculty preceptor (the fellow will review the medical record, interview and examine the patient, synthesize information and then present the case to a geriatric faculty member)

Teaching Methods
Mini-didactic sessions with faculty and other learners
Case-based learning (case discussions with faculty preceptor) using the Wisconsin Star Method
Individual study using listed references and web-based materials

Patient Characteristics/ Mix of Diseases
This clinic serves primarily older male veterans (> 60 years of age) who have diagnoses of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder, dementia, behavioral symptoms of dementia and personality styles that can interfere with normal coping and functioning.

Procedures
Affective screening
Cognitive screening

Bibliography

Revised 6/30/2014

I have read and reviewed the goals and objectives for this rotation.

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Fellow Signature     Faculty Signature