Neurology Acting Internship 2024-2025

Description

The Neurology Acting Internship (AI) is a four-week senior clinical clerkship providing inpatient care for patients with severe, acute neurological problems and overnight emergency consultations. Students completing this clerkship will be able to independently handle most patients with severe, complex or emergency neurological problems. They will be skilled in correctly managing neurological emergencies, coordinated care, calling in additional resources when needed, handling emergency consults and managing patient transfers and pickups. In addition to developing higher-level fundamental clinical skills and familiarity with complex technologies, the student must be able to empathize with patient struggles and family issues intrinsic to this care setting. A strong interest in neurology and strong collaborative skills are required.

Outcomes

Upon completion of the clerkship, the student will be able to independently:

1. perform a comprehensive history and physical examination for complex neurological cases admitted to the neurology inpatient service.
2. perform an emergency history and physical examination for emergency (overnight) neurological consultations requested by the emergency department or other primary services. This includes playing a role in “code strokes” and responding to patients in status epilepticus.
3. choose appropriate diagnostic tests for patients admitted to the neurology inpatient service.
4. choose appropriate diagnostic tests for emergency consults.
5. choose appropriate treatments for patients admitted to the neurology inpatient service.
6. choose appropriate treatments for emergency consults.
7. coordinate care and plan long range treatment strategies for inpatients.
8. coordinate care and plan short-term interdisciplinary treatment strategies for emergency consults.
9. hand off patient follow-up duties to and from teammates.
10. exhibit comfort carrying team pagers and responding to pages.
11. communicate with consulting services in an efficient manner.
12. demonstrate self-directed learning in advancing quality of clinical practice.
13. demonstrate self-directed system analysis and problem-solving.

Evolution of Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA).

Students completing the third-year clerkship have achieved the ability to perform a comprehensive history physical examination, using diagnostic testing skillfully and laying out effective treatment strategies while under direct supervision of residents and attendings. The AI will initially work with direct supervision of a resident, but as the weeks pass, will act semi-independently with on-site supervision by residents. Furthermore, the AI will face more complex cases (often requiring NSICU care) or emergency cases. Initially, there will be direct resident supervision. As the AI's level advances, the supervision will move to on-site rather than direct. There will always be in-hospital experienced neurology resident support. The attending support/supervision will either be direct, on- site, or remote.

Expected Schedule

During the neurology AI, the student will carry a schedule similar to that of a junior resident with the exception of having all weekends off. AI’s will be expected to arrive no later than 7am to receive morning hand-off and will stay until dismissed by their senior resident. There is an expectation that AI’s will take at least one “long-call” every week where they will stay till 8pm and assist in admissions and cross cover. Additionally, each AI will work four straight nights (Th-Mo) during either the second or third week of their rotation. Please see the syllabus for further details on scheduling.

Curriculum

Students will use a neurological exam hand-out to refresh techniques and basic neuroanatomy. Additionally, the video lecture series found in the introductory email are designed for the MS4 level and are strongly encouraged. Otherwise, the reading material is resident level /self-directed. The AI will attend all resident lectures, grand rounds and specialty conferences. Primary reading sources are the same as those used by residents (Continuum, Up-To-Date, review of the literature, etc.).

Assessment/Evaluation

A formative evaluation will take place after two weeks on the service. This is not for grading purposes but rather to help guide the student and identify and correct problems with the clerkship experience.

A grading rubric, based on clerkship outcomes, will be completed by the senior resident and attendings who supervise the student.

The student will present student-directed clinical learning exercise to the team. The attending or senior resident will grade this exercise.

The student will present a student-directed analysis and improvement of a system problem to the clerkship director and will receive feedback (grade) on this exercise.

Clinical Care/Clinical Efficiency

The AI clerkship is designed to improve the quality of care of patients served by the neurology inpatient team. The student’s efforts provide additional history and physical examination contact, more in-depth reading on complex cases, and the team’s availability to handle multiple tasks simultaneously. These advantages are offset by the time spent by residents and faculty teaching the AI student. Overall our goal is to “break even” in terms of the clinical efficiency of the team. Consequently, there are no resident staffing adjustments made based on the presence or absence of an AI.