Hospice/Palliative Care

Description of Rotation:

Hospice care involves relieving symptoms and supporting patients whom have less than 6 months of survival. The care is interdisciplinary in providing medical management, pain managements, emotional support and spiritual support, the latter 2 for the patient as well as family members.

Palliative care focuses on patients with serious illnesses at anytime during an extended illness prior to entering into Hospice care.

Both include a whole host of caregivers, not all medically trained.

Goals of Rotation:

To prepare the student with the knowledge base and problem-solving skills relating to the management and care of patients enrolled in hospice and palliative care.

Facilitate student learning and critical thinking skills in palliative care environment in order to:

1. Describe the types of patients who would enroll in palliative care
2. Appropriately communicate end of life issues
3. Understand patient healthcare needs.
4. Apply evidence-based medicine.
5. Enhance and reinforce didactic course work.
6. Develop interpersonal communication skills.
7. Describe the pathophysiology of common illness.
8. Explain monitoring parameters given the particular disease state and the treatment regimen (including efficacy, toxicity, side effects, and potential drug interactions).

Learning Objectives:

Upon completion of this rotation the student should be able to:

1. Describe the symptomatology, physical findings, pathophysiology, diagnostic procedures, laboratory tests, primary and alternative pharmacotherapies, and non-pharmacological treatments for disease states encountered during the rotation.
2. Provide recommendations for medication dose adjustments based upon pharmacokinetic and pharmacodynamic principles.
3. Provide appropriate monitoring parameters for the chosen treatment plan (including efficacy, toxicity, side effects, and potential drug interactions).
4. Effectively communicate the drug treatment plan to the patient with appropriate precautions and expectations.
5. Counsel patients on commonly prescribed medications and devices (i.e. blood glucose meters, peak flow meters, inhalers, etc.).
6. Discuss the benefits and limitations of alternative medicine (i.e., herbal therapy, biofeedback, etc.).
7. Document all appropriate recommendations and interventions.

Activities:

1. Patient interviews and care plans
   a. Medication Therapy Management
   b. Optimize drug therapy
2. Case/disease state presentations and discussions
3. Research drug information question
4. Educational programs
   a. Patients
   b. Medical Staff
   c. Students
5. Newsletter
6. Physical Assessment
7. Data collection
8. Required Readings

Common disease states encountered in the outpatient setting (list not inclusive):

1. CHF
2. COPD
3. Kidney failure
4. Alzheimer's disease
5. HIV/AIDS
6. ALS
7. Cancer
8. Dementias
9. Terminal illnesses
Potential longitudinal activities to accomplish at site:

1. Identify and collect appropriate drug-related monitoring parameters for each assigned patient
2. Maintain an adequate patient data base for each assigned patient
3. Identify and prioritize drug-related problems for each assigned patient
4. Assess the appropriateness of each assigned patient’s drug therapy
5. Construct a detailed pharmacotherapeutic plan for each assigned patient
6. Present all patient data in a concise and meaningful fashion
7. Provides evidence-based regimens and monitoring plans for each patient
8. Obtain and write-up a patient medication history
9. Provide medication information to a unique cultural and socioeconomic diverse patient
10. Provide a recommendation and counseling on an OTC product
11. Counsel a patient on their medications
12. Provide a verbal therapeutic plan recommendation to another health-care professional
13. Perform medication reconciliation for patients
14. Interpret diagnostic tests results for patient/caregiver/or preceptor
15. Provide an optimal pain management or palliative care plan for a patient
16. Observe a Health Care professional perform a full physical examination and assess results
17. Make a warfarin dosage adjustment based on patient parameters
18. Recommend empiric antibiotic therapy
19. Recommend antibiotic therapy based upon a culture and sensitivity
20. Assess the significance of a drug-drug interaction
21. Adjust a drug dose in a patient with renal insufficiency
22. Determine monitoring parameters for a patient being treated for an infectious disease
23. Assist in explaining to a patient or caregiver their health-insurance options
24. Prepare a written pharmacokinetic consultation
25. Prepare a handout for case presentation
26. Prepare an article for a newsletter or publication
27. Prepare a patient education sheet
28. Prepare a written drug information response in a practice setting
29. Provide an education presentation to pharmacists
30. Provide an education presentation to other health care professionals
31. Lead a Journal Club discussion
32. Participate in a Patient/Medication Safety Review or error reduction program
33. Develop a community-based educational initiative
34. Discuss or Implement, evaluate, and obtain reimbursement for MTM services
35. Participate in a discussion of a pharmacist role in ethical issues related to any of the following topics: end of life care, professional behavior, clinical research, and pharmacy current event/hot button issue