Objectives of the Palliative Medicine Rotation
Jeffrey Alderman, MD

1) Residents will become familiar with the discipline of Hospice and Palliative Medicine, with its unique focus on the alleviation of physical, affective, social and spiritual suffering. Learners will understand the how palliative medicine fits within the American health care system.
   Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Systems Based Practice

2) Residents will become familiar with the diagnosis of common pain syndromes, focusing on how to assess pain using a systematic approach.
   Patient Care, Medical Knowledge

3) Residents will learn how to select opioid and non-opioid therapies to manage pain, with particular emphasis on equianalgesic dosing.
   Patient Care, Medical Knowledge

4) Residents will learn how to manage several common end-of-life symptoms, including nausea, dyspnea, agitated delirium, insomnia, asthenia, anorexia and constipation.
   Patient Care, Medical Knowledge

5) Residents will learn to manage actively dying patients, who are in the last 48 hours of life.
   Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism

6) Residents will learn communication skills relevant to palliative medicine, including how to facilitate a structured family meeting, and how to break bad news.
   Patient Care, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism

7) Residents will familiarize themselves with the medical, ethical and legal aspects of Advance Care Planning, including the new Oklahoma Advance Directive, Durable Power for Attorney for Health Care, and the Do-Not-Resuscitate form. Residents will review these forms with patients, the palliative care team, and the pastoral care staff.
   Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism, Systems Based Practice

8) Residents will familiarize themselves with ethical challenges in End-of-Life care, including Palliative Sedation, Artificial Feeding/Hydration at the end-of-life, addressing requests for Physician-Assisted-Suicide, and the principle of Double-Effect.
   Medical Knowledge, Professionalism
**Specific Tasks**
Residents will be expected to follow 1 – 2 patients on the Palliative Medicine Service, including regular patient visits, daily notes, and relevant dictations.

*Medical Knowledge, Patient Care, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, Professionalism*

Residents will attend the weekly interdisciplinary team meeting, and participate in care plan formation with the palliative care nurse, social worker and chaplain.

*Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, Systems Based Practice, Professionalism, Interpersonal and Communication Skills*

Residents will participate in regular didactic sessions on palliative medicine topics, approximating 4 hours of instruction/week.

*Medical Knowledge*

Residents will participate in the collection and analysis of data regarding palliative care patients.

*Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, Systems Based Practice*

Residents will familiarize themselves with ways to access contemporary medical literature in palliative care.

*Medical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement*

**Curriculum**

EPEC Guide to End-of-Life Care – Primary Reading Source

EPERC and Fast Facts

Journal of Palliative Medicine