



## **Third-Year Student Roles during Clerkships**

### **STUDENT ROLE ON THE WARDS**

#### **Care for Patients**

1. Be the point person for his/her patients; be an expert on their history and care plan.
2. Perform and document on his/her own an H & P on his/her patients.
3. Formulate a dDx and evidence-based management plan for his/her patients.
4. Write daily progress notes that include all necessary data and a clear A/P.
5. Educate his/her patients about their medical condition and their care plan after discussion with the team.
6. Advocate for his/her patients when possible and appropriate.
7. Write orders on his/her patients under supervision.
8. Participate to the extent possible in contacts with consultants.
9. Accompany his/her patients to procedures and participate when possible.
10. Know his/her patient's medications, their uses and side effects.

#### **Be an Active Learner**

11. Be physically present on the floors or in clinics as much as possible to maximally take advantage of learning opportunities.
12. Offer the team evidence by reading about the clinical decisions being made on the patients; retrieve primary sources (not just UpToDate) and any guidelines discussed in work or attending rounds.
13. Ask a resident or attending to observe him/her with a patient and then elicit feedback (use Direct Observation Cards, DOC) once a week.
14. Meet briefly with a resident or attending by the midterm and end of the clerkship to get feedback on his/her performance.

#### **Be a Valuable Team Member**

15. Be prepared to present his/her patients to the team in whatever level of detail is appropriate.
16. Introduce him/herself to nurses and other ancillary staff (i.e. social workers, secretaries, etc.)
  - Learn their roles
  - Learn how he/she can help them
  - Learn how they can help him/her
17. Communicate with nurses, and read nursing records to be as up-to-date as possible about his/her patient's conditions.
18. Look for opportunities to perform tasks however small to help the team.
19. Learn about the common forms that must be filled out for patients; know where to find them and learn how to fill them out for his/her resident/attending.
20. Help the team with discharge planning and paperwork.
21. Interact by phone contact with the patient's primary care physician at follow-up appointments.