

Emergency Medicine Program

Rotation Objectives – Geriatric Medicine

1. Develops an understanding of the components of a comprehensive geriatric assessment and is able to apply these components as appropriate to their assessment of an older adult in the emergency department setting.
2. Gains an understanding of the importance of obtaining collateral history utilizing multiple sources including prior medical records, care givers, family, nursing home staff, outpatient pharmacist, family physician, etc., when obtaining a history from an older adult patient.
3. Demonstrates an organized approach to the assessment, investigation and management (both non-pharmacological and pharmacological strategies) of the geriatric patient with:
 - Acute functional decline
 - Atypical presentations (eg, pain, general weakness, dizziness, falls, altered mental status)
 - Behavioral and psychological symptoms of dementia
 - Cachexia/anorexia
 - Complex social and caregiver situations, including caregiver burnout
 - Delirium
 - Dementia
 - Elder abuse
 - Falls
 - Polypharmacy
4. Develops an understanding of the concept of frailty as it pertains to older adults, how to screen for it in the emergency department setting, and the implications of the vulnerability of this patient population.
5. Acquires knowledge of the various ED screening tools for conditions such as delirium (CAM, 4-AT), dementia (Mini-Cog) and functional decline (interRAI ED screener, ISAR), and is able to apply them in their clinical practice.

6. Demonstrates an understanding of how to perform a tailored functional assessment in an older adult and utilize this information in safe discharge planning.
7. Recognizes unique aspects of pharmacotherapy in older adults, including differences in normal aging physiology, pharmacokinetics and adverse drug reactions.
8. Develops an understanding of ethical and legal issues as it pertains to care of older adults in the emergency department setting.
 - Understands the key issues in determining capacity and an approach to its assessment in the older patient.
 - Understands the indications for implementing a Mental Health Act Form in an older patient with cognitive impairment.
 - Understands the indications for implementing the Health Care Consent Act in an older patient with cognitive impairment.
 - Develops a basic understanding of the concepts of advance care directives, substitute decision makers, power of attorney and office of the public guardian and trustee.
9. Recognizes the role of palliative issues in geriatric medicine.
 - Develops an approach to discussing end-of-life plans with the patient and/or family and establishing goals of care.
 - Assess and provide emergency department management for symptoms based on the patient's goals of care.
10. Recognizes the importance of interdisciplinary teams in the assessment of the geriatric patient and develops an understanding of the roles of allied health providers including physiotherapy, occupational therapy, pharmacy, social work, transitional care coordinators.
11. Understands the resources for discharge planning and community supports in Kingston and the surrounding area, as it relates to safe transitions of care for the geriatric patient, taking into account complex psychosocial factors and functional assessment of the patient.

12. Is able to generate a detailed home care referral form from the emergency department with the knowledge of specific services that are available to the geriatric patient.