Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health
Albert Einstein College of Medicine

CLERKSHIP DESCRIPTION

Amy E. Kesselman, MD
Program Director
Associate Director of Undergraduate Medical Education
akesselm@montefiore.org
(718) 430-3205

Stefanie Schmid
Education Administrator
Ob/Gyn Student Clerkship
stefanie.schmid@einstein.yu.edu
(718) 430-3205

I. Duration: 6 weeks

II. Sites: Bronx Lebanon Hospital Center, Jacobi Medical Center
Long Island Jewish Medical Center, Maimonides Medical Center
Montefiore Medical Center Moses Campus, Montefiore Medical Center Weiler Campus, Montefiore Medical Center Wakefield Campus

III. Objective: To educate third-year medical students through a defined core curriculum that will enable the students to master the basic skills needed to provide comprehensive health care to women.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS

The clerkship in the Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology and Women’s Health was designed to provide students with the latest information, knowledge and opportunities to develop the skills needed to provide health care to women across the life span. Our approach is collaborative and interdisciplinary and follows the objectives of The Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics (APGO). All material appears in the APGO booklet entitled Medical Student Educational Objectives, 9th Edition. The student can access the APGO Medical Student Educational Objectives through EMED.

The main units include the general approach to the patient, obstetrics, gynecology, reproductive endocrinology and infertility, neoplasia, human sexuality and violence against women. Also included are important issues such as professional behavior, preventive care and health maintenance and management, pregnancy prevention, contraception, breast disease screening and management, detection and intervention, sexually transmitted diseases, maternal and fetal physiology, prevention of birth defects, fetal growth restriction and management, preterm labor and delivery, the social, ethical, legal and policy aspects of women’s health (i.e., access to prenatal care, financial coverage for diagnostic tests such as mammograms, and managed care), and issues related to cultural competency, alternative medicine, nutrition and palliative care.

CLINICAL SKILLS: GOALS & EXPECTATIONS

The student is expected to master the basic skills needed to obtain a complete gynecologic and obstetric history, including a sexual history, contraceptive history, menstrual history, and family history. The student will learn the skills and techniques to comfortably perform a complete breast and pelvic exam, including a speculum exam, and collection of cervical cytology and
cultures. Students will also participate and learn other procedures and skills related to OBGYN. The Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Women’s Health teaches the core material and required skills through the following clinical and educational experiences:

1. Labor and Delivery Suite - Students are assigned to the labor and delivery unit during the clerkship. The attending, fellow, resident, midwife or physician assistant responsible for the patient supervises all clinical experiences. When a patient is admitted in labor, the student follows the course of normal labor eventuating in a vaginal delivery. The student performs the delivery under direct supervision. Fetal heart monitoring and other monitoring techniques are observed. The attendings, fellows, residents and midwives discuss normal and abnormal labors, antepartum complications and high-risk obstetrical cases to ensure student understanding. Students participate in Cesarean Sections. Students should participate in a patient’s admission, hospital and postpartum course and are encouraged to write notes in the patient’s chart.

2. Gynecology - Students are assigned to the gynecology service for participation in hospital-based gynecology. The cases include elective and emergency admissions as well as ambulatory surgery. The student is to evaluate the patient under direct attending, fellow, resident or physician assistant supervision. The usual inpatient is one scheduled for an operative procedure in which the student participates in the history, physical examination, evaluation, surgery and post-operative care. The patient is followed post-operatively until she is discharged. Students are expected to round and write notes during the patient’s hospital course.

3. Outpatient Services - A scheduled rotation in the various clinics is prepared for active student participation in ambulatory Ob-Gyn patient management. Attending and resident supervision and teaching occur in all clinic sessions, which include: antepartum and postpartum care, ambulatory gynecology clinics, infertility and endocrine clinics, preconception care, high risk obstetrics, genetics, diabetes and prematurity clinics, gyn oncology clinics and regular family planning clinics and specialty clinics (i.e. colposcopy). The exact schedule varies at each site. Each student is also given emergency room experience, with the exact schedule being site specific. The required faculty Observed Clinical Encounter (OCE) takes place in the ambulatory setting.

4. Departmental Stats followed by Grand Rounds - Every Tuesday from 7:00 am to 9:00 am during the months of September through June in the Forchheimer Bldg., 3rd floor lecture hall. Attendance by all clerkship students is required. Be sure to sign in.

5. Clerkship Teaching Day - Tuesdays are designated teaching days. Lectures are held in the Belfer Education Center from approximately 9:30 am until early afternoon. Major subjects are presented to all students from all sites. Attendance and sign-in are required. Participation in the didactic sessions will count as 5% of the student’s overall grade. The student’s site leader will be informed of any absences. Frequent or unexcused absences over the course of the rotation may result in dismissal from the clerkship or lowering of the final grade and may be noted in the final narrative.
Approach to the Patient

1. **History:** A gynecological evaluation is an important part of primary health care and preventive medicine for women of all ages. A gynecological assessment should be a part of every woman’s general medical interview and physical examination. Certain questions must be asked of every woman, whereas other questions are specific to particular problems. To accomplish these objectives, optimal communication must be achieved between patient and physician.

**The student should be able to:**

A. Demonstrate a comprehensive women’s medical interview, including:
   1. Menstrual history
   2. Obstetric history
   3. Gynecologic history
   4. Contraceptive history
   5. Sexual history
   6. Family/Genetic history
   7. Social history
B. Assess risk for unintended pregnancy, sexually transmitted infections, cervical pathology, breast malignancy, gynecologic malignancies and domestic violence.
C. Assess the patient’s adherence to the recommended screening measures
D. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that build trust by addressing relevant factors including culture, ethnicity, language/literacy, socioeconomic status, spirituality/religion, age, sexual orientation and disability
E. Communicate the results of the ob-gyn and general medical interview by well-organized written and oral reports

2. **Physical Examination:** An accurate examination complements the history, provides additional information, helps determine diagnosis and guides management. It also provides an opportunity to educate and reassure the patient.

**The student should be able to:**

A. Interact with the patient to gain her confidence and cooperation, and assure her comfort and dignity
B. Perform accurate examinations in a sensitive manner, including:
   1. Breast examination
   2. Abdominal examination
   3. Complete pelvic examination
C. Describe the:
   1. Normal female anatomy across the life span
   2. Appearance of common pathology of the female urogenital tract
   3. Appearance of common breast changes and disorders
D. Communicate findings of the examination in well-organized written and oral reports  
E. Communicate findings of the examination with the patient as appropriate  

3. **Diagnosis and Management Plan**: Accurately identifying problems and selecting the most likely diagnoses lead to effective management plans.  

   **The student should be able to:**  
   A. Generate a problem list  
   B. Formulate a diagnostic impression, including differential diagnosis  
   C. Incorporate cultural, psychosocial, economic and ethical issues in patient care  
   D. Develop a management plan that includes:  
      1. Laboratory and diagnostic studies  
      2. Treatment options  
      3. Patient education  
      4. Continuing care plans  

4. **Personal Interaction and Communication Skills**: The student must interact and communicate effectively with a patient, her family and all members of a health care team.  

   **The student should be able to:**  
   A. Establish rapport with patients  
   B. Work cooperatively with patients, their social supports and other members of the health care team  
   C. Assess his/her own strengths and weaknesses with regard to interaction and communication skills  

5. **Legal and Ethical Issues in Obstetrics and Gynecology**: Recognizing and understanding the basis of legal and ethical issues in obstetrics and gynecology will promote quality patient care and patient safety  

   **The student should be able to:**  
   A. Explain the following legal issues:  
      1. Informed consent and shared decision making  
      2. Confidentiality  
      3. Advance directives for healthcare  
      4. Reporting of suspected child abuse, sexual abuse and domestic violence  
   B. Discuss the legal and ethical issues in the care of minors  
   C. Apply a systematic approach to ethical problems based on ethical principles  
   D. Describe issues of justice relating to access to obstetric-gynecologic care  
   E. Recognize his/her role as a leader and advocate for women  
   F. Explain ethical dilemmas in obstetrics and gynecology
6. **Preventive Care and Health Maintenance:** The student will recognize the value of routine health surveillance as a part of health promotion and disease prevention.

**The student should be able to:**

A. Counsel patients regarding the following:
   1. Contraception
   2. Domestic abuse/violence
   3. Prevention of sexually transmitted infections
   4. Immunizations
   5. Diet/nutrition
   6. Exercise
   7. Seat belt use
   8. Stress management
   9. Sun exposure
   10. Depression
   11. Tobacco use
   12. Alcohol/substance abuse

B. Explain prevention guidelines including screening procedures for diseases of the following organ systems:
   1. Breast
   2. Cervix
   3. Colon
   4. Cardiovascular
   5. Skin
   6. Bone
EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

The essential materials for the clerkship can be accessed on EMED. APGO’s Medical Student Educational Objectives, 9th Edition is the best guide for studying. The corresponding text, Obstetrics and Gynecology, by Beckmann, et al, is loaned to each student on the rotation. The textbook must be returned in order for the student to take the examination on the last day of the rotation. Failure to return the textbook will result in a $100 fee. Another excellent resource text is Essentials of Obstetrics and Gynecology, by Hacker and Moore. A list of additional resources can be found on EMED. Additionally, we have arranged for students to have access to the password protected APGO uWise, an interactive tool for assessment of knowledge base. Students can also access the uWISE Comprehensive Quiz, a comprehensive test of random questions. Students that submit their responses to the quiz will receive a score with information regarding the objectives to review.

CLERKSHIP EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

During the clerkship you are expected to increase your medical knowledge and develop your clinical skills. These learning objectives were designed using the APGO Medical Student Educational Objectives, 9th edition, to emphasize the essential aspects of our discipline. The rationale, objective, and evaluation tools are described in these materials. The clerkship educational objectives are to:

1. Develop competence in the medical interview and physical examination of women and incorporate ethical, social, and diversity perspective to provide culturally competent health care.
2. Apply recommended prevention strategies to women throughout the life span.
3. Recognize his/her role as a leader and advocate for women.
4. Demonstrate knowledge of preconception care including the impact of genetics, medical conditions, and environmental factors on maternal health and fetal development.
5. Explain the normal physiologic changes of pregnancy including interpretation of common diagnostic studies.
6. Describe common problems in obstetrics.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of intrapartum care.
8. Demonstrate knowledge of postpartum care of the mother and newborn.
9. Describe menstrual cycle physiology, discuss puberty and menopause and explain normal and abnormal bleeding.
10. Describe the etiology and evaluation of infertility.
11. Develop a thorough understanding of contraception, including sterilization and abortion.
12. Demonstrate knowledge of common benign gynecologic conditions.
14. Describe common breast conditions and outline the evaluation of breast complaints.
15. Demonstrate knowledge of perioperative care and familiarity with gynecologic procedures.
16. Describe gynecologic malignancies including risk factors, signs and symptoms, and initial evaluation.
17. Provide a preliminary assessment of patients with sexual concerns.
ATTENDANCE POLICY

“To study the phenomena of disease without books is to sail an uncharted sea, while to study books without patients is not to go to sea at all” - Sir William Osler

Attendance is mandatory at all clinical sites, grand rounds and lecture series. Students who are absent from any clinical assignment must contact their site leader and the clerkship director. To receive an excused absence, students must communicate with both their site leader and the clerkship director and to make-up any material or clinical time that was missed. A doctor’s note should be given to your site leader and the clerkship director if you are absent due to illness. Students with unexcused absences may be subject to grade reductions (including failure), dismissal from the clerkship and disciplinary action for lack of professionalism. A student with more than 5 absences may be required to repeat the clerkship.

REQUIREMENTS

Certain clinical responsibilities, work schedules and duties have been standardized to ensure comparable experiences for students rotating at all of our sites. Students are, however, encouraged to take full advantage of the unique clinical opportunities at the various sites. All students are expected to complete the following clerkship requirements:

**Obstetrics Case Presentation** - One obstetric case presentation is required for this clerkship. Your site leader will provide you with a scheduled date to present and submit your case. The presentation will be assigned a grade based on both the oral and written content of the presentation. The grade will count towards 5% of the final grade.

**Gynecologic Case Presentation** – One gynecologic case presentation is required for this clerkship. Your site leader will provide you with a scheduled date to present and submit your case. The presentation will be assigned a grade based on both the oral and written content of the presentation. The grade will count towards 5% of the final grade.

**Evaluations** – Five evaluations will be solicited from the residents, fellows and attendings that the student has worked with on the clinical service. Evaluations will count towards 25% of the final grade.

**Didactics** – Attendance and participation in Departmental stats, grand round and student didactic sessions will count towards 5% of the final grade.

**Oral Examination** – The student must pass the OSCE Part I and oral examination Part II, which will count towards 20% of the final grade.

**Written Examination** – The student must pass the written examination, which will count towards 40% of the final grade.

**Faculty Observed Clinical Encounter (FOCE)** – Each student is required to complete one Faculty Observed Clinical Encounter form. Your site leader will assign each student a specific date, time and faculty preceptor to complete the encounter. The encounter is a formative experience and will not count toward the final grade.

**Patient Log** - The purpose of the patient log is to monitor the clinical skills and the clinical exposure of our students during the Ob-Gyn & Women’s Health Clerkship. Students need to document all patient encounters to ensure adequate clinical exposure. A minimum of 70 patient encounters must be logged. Throughout the rotation, the clerkship director and site leader will review your progress with you to help ensure compliance with this clerkship requirement. It is the responsibility of each student to ensure that the conditions and procedures listed are
completed. If the student has a zero by either a condition or an observed or performed procedure, the student must complete the alternate experience form on eMED to document that the requirement has been fulfilled.

Prior to the written and oral exams, all students are required to submit the **Patient Log** and **Alternate Experience Form** and the **Faculty Observed Clinical Encounter Form (FOCE)**. Submission of the forms is a requirement for entrance to the exams. Students should also submit a copy of their case presentations either electronically or by paper.

**FEEDBACK, FINAL GRADES AND EVALUATIONS**

To maximize the learning experience of all students, ongoing feedback, both positive and negative, is an important component of the clerkship. The clerkship site leader discusses a formal, pre-clerkship assessment of student goals, a mid-clerkship formative review and a summative feedback/exit evaluation of each student. Students will be required to bring a completed self-assessment form to the mid-clerkship formative review. Additionally, all students are required to have one faculty observed clinical encounter (FOCE) and the associated feedback meeting.

By the end of the clerkship, all students must complete and pass each of the clerkship requirements:
- a) A minimum of 5 clinical evaluations will be collected per student from faculty, fellows and residents that the student has worked with.
- b) Attendance at departmental stats and grand rounds and participation in all didactic sessions;
- c) Obstetric case presentation;
- d) Gynecologic case presentation;
- e) Completion of patient log and alternate experience form;
- f) Completion of FOCE
- g) Oral examination; and
- h) Written NBME examination (shelf exam)
The student’s overall final grade is based on his or her completion and performance on each of the clerkship requirements listed above. The final grade reflects the student’s cognitive knowledge, clinical growth and development, mastering of skills related to Ob/Gyn, interpersonal skills, ability and quality of participation in patient care and the integration of new material.

A score greater than the fifth percentile (i.e. equal to the 6th percentile and higher) is considered passing for the written exam. The grades on the written exam will be determined as set forth below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Raw score</th>
<th>National Percentile</th>
<th>Points earned</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-61</td>
<td>&lt;6%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>62-64</td>
<td>6%-9%</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65-67</td>
<td>11%-18%</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>68-70</td>
<td>20%-28%</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>71-73</td>
<td>33%-42%</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>74-76</td>
<td>47%-56%</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>61%-70%</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-82</td>
<td>74%-80%</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>83-100</td>
<td>82%-100%</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The clerkship site leader at each hospital will prepare a final grade for the student using the grading matrix set forth below:

- OB case presentation: 5%
- GYN case presentation: 5%
- Didactic grade: 5%
- Evaluations (min 5): 25%
- Oral examination: 20%
- Written exam: 40%
- Total: 100%
The overall final clerkship grade is based on the total number of points accumulated during the clerkship as shown below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fail</td>
<td>0-29pts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Low Pass| 30-55pts| *Must have passed each component*
| Pass    | 56-74pts| *Must have passed each component*
| High Pass| 75-87pts| *Must have passed each component*
| Honors  | 88-100pts| *Must have passed each component*

The rationale for the grading calculation is to stress the importance of patient care and clinical abilities, while maintaining objective assessments to measure cognitive knowledge. Demonstration of both exceptional knowledge and clinical skills is required to achieve an honors grade. A student who fails both the written and oral examinations is required to repeat the clerkship. A student who fails the shelf exam will be required to repeat the examination with the next clerkship students (and will not be eligible for Honors). Students who fail a second time will fail the clerkship and will be required to repeat the clerkship in its entirety. Students repeating the clerkship will not be eligible for High Pass or Honors. Grading details can be found in the clerkship grading policy. Any student dissatisfied with a final grade is encouraged to speak to his/her site leader. If a resolution is not attained, the student should discuss the situation with the Clerkship Director. If the student wishes to formally appeal the grade, the procedure follows the Department’s Grade Appeal Policy.

**Grade Appeal Policy**

The student will write a formal letter to the clerkship director requesting a formal grade appeal. The clerkship director will present the student file at the next teaching committee meeting. The teaching committee will review the entire file and determine the final grade. The teaching committee may decide to uphold, raise or lower the assigned grade. The student may not appeal the grade determined by the teaching committee.