

Goals and Objectives for the MS Clinic  
(Elective Rotation, PGY3-4)

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Phone #: 314-362-3435  
Where: McMillan Lower Level  
When: Tuesday and/or Thursday at 8:00am and/or 1:00pm

OVERALL GOALS & OBJECTIVES:

- 1.) To see a variety of patients with multiple sclerosis (MS) and related disease, and appreciate the heterogeneity of the disease.
- 2.) To become proficient, thorough, and accurate in evaluating patients with MS.
- 3.) To know and understand the main mechanisms of action of the disease-modifying treatments for MS. To know the major monitoring requirements for the different disease-modifying treatments for MS
- 4.) To know about symptomatic therapies for MS, including therapies for neurogenic bladder, spasticity, fatigue, and constipation.

EXPECTATIONS:

- 1.) See and evaluate patients independently. Know the diagnostic criteria for MS.
- 2.) Recognize “red flags” that suggest the patient might not have MS
- 3.) Arrive at your own assessment of what is going on, and what should be done.
- 4.) To learn some of the subtleties of documentation and coding in a clinic.

At the end of the rotation, an evaluation is sent by the Neurology Residency Coordinator to the attending(s) who worked with the resident(s).

Competency specific Goals and Objectives:

Goals and objectives are similar for PGY3 and 4 residents. PGY4 residents will be expected to work more independently.

**Patient Care**

**Goal:** The resident rotating in MS Clinic will gain special appreciation for problem- focused examination relative to MS and related diseases. The resident will observe and then work with senior faculty obtaining histories and performing examinations on patients with a wide variety of neuroimmunological disorders, thereby gaining exposure to the breadth of subspecialty problems encountered in the care of MS patients. Residents are expected to:

**Objectives:**

- Evaluate new and follow-up patients in the MS clinic under the direct observation and supervision of MS faculty and fellows.
- Gain skill and experience in eliciting a history and performing an examination needed to support a diagnosis of MS.
- Know the main diseases that may “mimic” MS.

**Medical Knowledge**

**Goal:** The resident rotating in the MS Specialty Clinic must demonstrate increasing knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences as they pertain to multiple sclerosis and other neuroimmunological disorders. Residents are expected to:

**Objectives:**

- Demonstrate an understanding and gain experience in the procedures for diagnosis and management of patients with MS.
- Have a basic and neurological science background of neuroimmunology and neurological medicine and apply this knowledge to the clinical care of patients.
- Be able to explain and examine the interaction of neurological diseases with other organ systems and with other medical illnesses in neurologic subspecialties.
- Have knowledge of the most current pathophysiological explanations for neurological disorders.
- Develop neurological exam skills relevant to the diagnosis of MS under guidance of fellows and neurology faculty members.

**Practice-based Learning and Improvement**

The resident rotating in the MS Specialty Clinic must demonstrate the ability to rapidly investigate and evaluate their care of neurological patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning. Residents are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to meet the following goals:

**Objectives:**

- Teach the utility and appropriate use of specialty procedures (MR, CT and other imaging techniques, EEG and CSF evaluations) in the MS Clinic setting.
- To prioritize clinical responsibilities, provide timely service, and seek appropriate consultation and support.
- Develop the ability to use information technology to improve the practitioner's fund of knowledge and technical skills to provide better care to patients.
- Participate in specialty conferences whenever possible.
- Participate in outpatient conferences approximately monthly (Lunch and Learn Series)
- Regularly attend weekly neurology conferences including (1) Grand Rounds (2) Clinical Neuroscience Lecture Series; (3) Research Conference when clinical duties permit.

**Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

The resident rotating in the MS Specialty Clinic must demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in the effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and health professionals. Residents are expected to:

**Objectives:**

- Learn communication techniques for patients and families in the MS specialty outpatient practice. Learn to deal effectively and respectfully with difficult patients or family members.
- Develop communication skills with a full spectrum of medical staff including physicians, nurses, social workers, clinical coordinators, MA's, and support personnel to enhance rapid evaluation and treatment of patients.
- Communicate effectively with other health care professionals that may be asked to evaluate our patients.
- Work effectively as both a member of a professional group and as a group leader.
- Demonstrate the ability to serve as a consultant to colleagues and health care professionals.
- Maintain comprehensive, timely and accurate medical records.

**Professionalism**

The resident rotating in the MS Specialty Clinic must demonstrate a commitment to carry out professional responsibilities and adhere to ethical principles.

Residents are expected to demonstrate:

- Understand good and bad communication behavior and leadership characteristics. Demonstrate appropriate nonverbal behavior.
- Have a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities.
- Adhere to ethical principles.
- Develop sensitivity to a diverse patient population, with respect for colleagues and other health professionals.
- Function well as a team member.
- Effectively resolve conflicts if they arise.

**Systems-based Practice**

The resident rotating in the MS Specialty Clinic must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. Residents are expected to:

- Describe the responsibility of the individual physician to the patient, the practice and the overall health care system.
- Describe the concepts of cost containment and cost-effectiveness and learn the relative cost to the patient and society of studies and treatments requested.
- Describe methods for ensuring that the practitioner and the practice group use scarce resources in a sound, thoughtful and cost-effective manner.
- Develop necessary skills required to independently practice neurological care.
- Understand and effectively utilize the electronic medical record as it pertains to neurological care.
- Understand how to utilize available resources in the hospital and via electronic media to improve patient care and outcomes.