

Curriculum for Emergency Medicine Residency Emergency Department Based Observation Medicine

Jeffrey Shuster, M.D.

Adam Yates, M.D.

Overview

With increasing demands placed on our health care system, Observation Medicine has developed as an alternative to discharge or full inpatient admission. Observation Medicine units have quickly become the purview of the Emergency Department, with management directed by Emergency Medicine Physicians. In 2007, it was estimated that 36% of hospitals had an Emergency Department Observation Unit (EDOU), with Academic Medical Centers supporting an even greater percentage (1).

As Resident Physicians in Emergency Medicine, EDOUs will very soon become part of our daily responsibilities. As a more cost effective and efficient means to board patients, the presence of EDOUs is only likely to grow. With the Emergency Department managing the administration of half of the EDOUs (1), we will be expected to not only manage the patients, but the staffing and resource needs of the EDOUs as well.

In the University of Pittsburgh Emergency Medicine Residency the primary exposure to EDOUs is at UPMC Mercy Hospital. There the Clinical Decision Unit (CDU) operates as an extension of the Emergency Department, staffed by Attending Emergency Medicine physicians.

This clinical curriculum will be used as a framework informing the resident experience in the CDU.

Goals

Understanding of this specific patient population

Development of the skills needed to function clinically in an EDOU

Introduction to the administrative skills needed to operate an EDOU

Learning Objectives

Introduction to the common EDOU models

Identifying patients who are appropriate for EDOU admission

-discussion of specific qualifying pathologies

-review of patient EDOU exclusion criteria

Clinical Skills acquired will include:

-Developing familiarity with standard EDOU orders

-Completing patient rounds

-Determining which patient's are appropriate for discharge versus an alternative disposition

-Approach to documentation unique to the CDU

Administrative Skills acquired will include:

-Awareness of the unique reimbursement issues associated with the EDOU

-Introduction to staffing/typical nursing ratios for EDOU

-Awareness of typical physician and advance practice provider staffing for the EDOU

Duties

Attendance at CDU/Airway Shifts as part of the clinical time at UPMC Mercy Emergency Department
Review available electronic materials

Educational Methods

On Demand Introductory Materials Reviewing the Purpose of the EDOU
Grand Rounds Didactic Presentation
Clinical Management of EDOU patient
Attending Feedback

Milestones

Completion of CDU/Airway Shifts as part of the clinical time at UPMC Mercy Emergency Department
Pre and Post Survey Regarding the Effectiveness of the Curriculum

Meets Milestones 6 and 7, while supplementing Milestones 1, 3, 4, and 17 of the ACGME, ABEM
Emergency Medicine Milestones

Resources

- (1) ACEP. State of the Art: Observation Units in the Emergency Department. Policy Resource and Education Paper. May 2011.
- (2) Graff et al. *Observation Medicine*. Available on ACEP Observation Medicine Interest Group. August 2011.
- (3) Howell, J. Druckenbrod, G. Chapter 42: Chest Pain Units. Operations:Emergency Department Specialization. (portion of EM text)
- (4) Ross, M et al. Chapter 36: Role of Observation Units/Rapid Treatment Units in the Emergency Department. (portion of EM text)