

Course title	Clinical Practice: General Practice and Geriatric Medicine			
Course code	GEMD-501			
Course type	Required			
Level	Undergraduate			
Year / Semester	Year 5 / Semester 9/10 (rotation)			
Course Lead				
ECTS	48	Teaching Periods per Week		
		Large Group Learning	Small Group Learning	Clinical Practice
		6	2	30
Course purpose and objectives	<p>The objectives of the course are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide the student with a basic understanding of general practice and geriatric medicine. • To understand the role played by the General Practitioner (GP) in the community. • To understand the limitations of the GP and the need to refer to a secondary care centre when appropriate. • To use the wealth of experience in General Practice to aid in the transition from senior student to house officer. • To enhance history-taking, information giving, physical examination and procedural skills through practice with a wide range of patients. • To prepare students to be able to prescribe drugs safely upon completion of their course and write prescriptions. • To illustrate doctors' and other health professionals' roles working across primary and secondary care. • To understand the importance of teamwork in the primary health care team. • To understand the importance of taking a holistic overview of elderly patients, as in geriatric medicine, rather than an isolated system view of the elderly by individual specialists who may not communicate adequately enough with their colleagues in other specialties to identify health patterns. 			
Learning outcomes	By the end of the course the students should be able to:			

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Outline the nature of the physician-patient relationship and its impact upon the management of the patient's illness. 2. Demonstrate effective shared decision-making skills. 3. Formulate differential diagnoses and treatment plans based on the limited information gathered in a typical GP office visit and evaluate a given treatment plan on the basis of outcome for the patient, likelihood of being implemented successfully, and the cost effectiveness of the treatment. 4. Manage the most common problems seen in ambulatory practice. 5. Maintain good patient records. 6. Perform procedures commonly carried out by GPs, including: urinalysis, venepuncture, throat culture, intramuscular and subcutaneous injections, ECGs, skin testing, spirometry, tympanometry, suturing, incision and drainage, casting and splinting, stool for occult blood. 7. Demonstrate effective history taking in relation to prescribed drugs, over the counter medication, complementary and alternative therapies, illicit drug use and allergies. 8. Demonstrate how to write a prescription for a patient, including effective prescription of controlled drugs. 9. Give subcutaneous, intramuscular and intravenous injections and prepare and give nebulised drugs. 10. In general, for each condition studied, list the main drugs (if any) that relieve symptoms, produce a cure or improve prognosis or reduce risk of recurrence. 11. Develop a caring and empathic attitude towards all patients, regardless of their background, age, skin colour, gender, sexual preference, culture, religion or social status. 12. Describe the concept of prevention and generalise the concept of prevention/lifetime health monitoring and developing long-term treatment plans and goals. 13. Take a history from an older person, including information of functional ability and social support. 14. Demonstrate the ability to perform a full physical examination of elderly people including systems often affected by illness in old age (locomotor, nervous and cardio-respiratory systems). 15. Explain the need to respect older patients' rights regardless of their age, background, culture, lifestyle, beliefs, race, gender, sexuality, disability, social or economic status. 16. Communicate clearly and effectively with older patients, their relatives and colleagues from a variety of health and social care professions. 17. Discuss the balance between prolongation and quality of life.
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	<p>18. Describe the assessment, investigation and management of an elderly patient with falls, delirium, dementia, reduced mobility or incontinence.</p> <p>19. Describe the process and principles of rehabilitation in hospital and community settings, the importance of functional assessment and what may realistically be achieved, the importance of goal setting, and the influence of socio-economic factors.</p> <p>20. Describe indications for referral of an elderly person to a residential or nursing home and explain how such a placement is organised.</p> <p>21. Outline the many roles played by a wide range of health professionals in caring for elderly patients.</p> <p>22. Discuss the ethical and legal issues relating to older people including: consent to treatment, capacity to make decisions, safe-guarding finances, withdrawing and withholding treatment, elder abuse and cardio-pulmonary resuscitation decisions.</p>		
Prerequisites	None	Required	None
Course content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The diagnosis and management of common General Practice presentations affecting all the systems of the body including minor illnesses, obstetric and gynaecological conditions, childhood illnesses, infectious diseases and immunisations, mental health issues • Problem formulation and differential diagnosis recognising the biopsychosocial dimensions of illness • Development of management plans • Discriminatory use of investigations including phlebotomy, measuring blood pressure measuring blood glucose, urinalysis • Prescribing skills • Adoption of preventative approach to healthcare including patient education • Dealing with elderly patients presenting with falls, incontinence, delirium, dementia, confusion and reduced mobility • Rehabilitation and residential care • Breaking bad news • Dealing with ethical issues • Writing referral letters and hospital discharge letters • Sickness certification 		
Teaching methodology	The course is delivered by clinical placements, lectures, tutorials, case studies and theatre attendance.		
Bibliography	Required textbooks/reading		

	Authors	Title	Edition	Publisher	Year	ISBN
	Stephenson, Anne. (ed.)	A textbook of general practice		Hodder Arnold	2011	9781444120646
	Woodford, Henry.	Essential geriatrics		Radcliffe	2010	9781846194269
	Timiras, Paola S.	Physiological basis of aging and geriatrics		Informa Healthcare	2007	9780849373053
	Joint Formulary Committee	https://bestpractice.bmj.com/drugs	Last one	BMJ Group and Pharmaceutical Press.	Current year	
	National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance	Last one		Current year	
	Recommended textbooks/reading					
	Authors	Title	Edition	Publisher	Year	ISBN
	Fillit, Howard	Brocklehurst's textbook of geriatric medicine and gerontology	7 th	Saunders/Elsevier	2010	9781416062318
Assessment	Final year exam and final year OSCE. The written assessment will be Single Best Answer MCQs and Short Answer Questions. Workplace based assessments will take place during the attachment.					
Language	English					