Nephrology

Course Director: Michael Linsey, MD

Introduction: The resident will be assigned to a nephrology consultative service in order to gain experience and knowledge in the care of patients with renal disease. The clinical experience may include time on the inpatient consultation, in a private office, at Huntington Dialysis Center and in the renal clinic in HACC.

Content Goals and Objectives
1. Recognize and initiate workup for acute kidney injury
2. Recognize, stage and initiate the evaluation of chronic kidney disease patients.
3. Manage hypokalemia and hyperkalemia
4. Evaluate and initiate appropriate basic workup of disorders of water balance including hyponatremia and hypernatremia.
5. Manage hypertensive emergencies and volume depletion.
6. Identify respiratory and metabolic acid base disturbances and initiate appropriate workup
7. Recommend initiation of dialysis for appropriate patients with both acute kidney injury and chronic kidney disease.
8. Manage renal disease and electrolyte disturbances in inpatients on other services including patients in the peri-operative setting.
9. Dose drugs appropriately to the level of renal function
10. Manage anemia in patients with chronic kidney disease and ESRD including understanding the use of blood products and erythropoesis stimulating agents.
11. Manage parathyroid abnormalities in patients with chronic kidney disease
12. Manage patients with hypertension and evaluate for secondary causes of hypertension when appropriate.
13. Evaluate and treat medically patients with renal stones
14. Initiate the evaluation of patients with proteinuria..
15. Recognize and begin the initial evaluation of patients with glomerular and tubulo-interstitial renal diseases.

Process-Based Goals and Objectives
1. Acquire accurate and relevant history
2. Gather subtle, sensitive and complicated information that may not be volunteered by the patient
3. Perform an accurate physical exam
4. Develop prioritized differential diagnoses
5. Develop an evidence-based diagnostic and therapeutic plan
6. Provide accurate, complete and timely documentation
7. Communicate effectively with the primary team
8. Modify the differential diagnosis and care plan based on clinical course and data
9. Minimize unnecessary care including tests
10. Integrate clinical evidence into decision making
11. Use feedback to improve performance

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