

KENNESTONE PALLIATIVE MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP CURRICULUM OUTLINE

Updated July 2, 2024

Fellows participate in one half day per week of educational time. Our curriculum includes:

- Communication skills
- Symptom management
- Spiritual care
- Ethics
- Pediatrics
- Quality improvement and patient safety
- Board review questions throughout the year
- Specialist Series, a set of lectures spread throughout the year where experts discuss common topics that overlap between their field and palliative medicine
- Wellness

In addition, fellows work with the program director to develop an individual learning plan of specific, self-directed learning that reflects their own educational needs.

We have moved to a weekly block schedule where fellows get three weeks minimum blocks of consults and hospice broken up by elective and less intense rotations.

Hospice (12 weeks)

Fellows spend 12 weeks at Wellstar Hospice Care at Kennesaw Mountain inpatient hospice unit. During this time fellows are the primary team for patients admitted for intense symptom management for a 16-bed unit. Fellows also have two half days per week where they join hospice nurses for home visits. This schedule is typically 8:30 AM to 6 PM and does not include weekends.

Consults (16 weeks)

Fellows spend approximately 16 weeks at Wellstar Kennestone Regional Medical Center, a 663-bed Level II Trauma Center. During these rotations, fellows will have one-on-one supervision with one of the 11 fellowship-trained attendings. The palliative care team comprises of four attendings and two nurse practitioners who work a seven-on, seven-off schedule supported by two social workers and a chaplain during the week. Fellows participate in the weekly interdisciplinary team rounds which are also attended by the ethics team and pain pharmacy team. The schedule is six days per week with fellows normally taking Saturdays off. A typical day is from 8 AM to 6 PM.

Long-term care (four weeks)

During this rotation, fellows spend time at A.G. Rhodes nursing home. The facility medical director is the program director for the family medicine residency, and so they are familiar with learners and have clear education goals for our fellows.

Pediatrics (four weeks)

As our inpatient pediatrics program grows, fellows will occasionally see consults in the PICU and NICU as part of the consult rotation. Fellows will also spend a total of four weeks with the pediatric home hospice team.

Outpatient oncology (four weeks)

In the hospital, fellows often see patients dying of cancer rather than patients living with cancer. To round out this experience, fellows spend time in hematology/oncology, radiation oncology and gynecologic oncology clinics.

Elective (three weeks)

Prior elective rotations have included ethics, advanced heart failure, interventional pain, wound care and pulmonary clinic.

Home-based palliative care (three weeks)

Fellows spend three weeks seeing home-based palliative care patients alongside palliative care NPs.

Palliative Care Clinic

Fellows have continuity clinic throughout the year every other week. This allows for continuity and avoids interruptions to other rotations.

Home call

Fellows take home call one evening and overnight during hospice and consult rotations.