

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE

## Emergency Medicine

### Overview:

Emergency medicine involves the evaluation and care of acute illness and injuries that require intervention within a limited time span. It is defined by a time interval rather than by a particular organ. Some conditions may be encountered in office practice, others in acute care settings. Regardless of the setting, the general internist should be able to manage common emergency conditions and provide consultation and management for a variety of acute serious illnesses. The range of competencies expected of a general internist will depend on the availability of emergency physicians and other specialists in the community.

## **Clinical Training and Education in Emergency Medicine**

Residents in internal medicine, under the supervision of faculty specialists, participate in the care of patients seeking emergency care. Junior residents train for one month in emergency room settings and participate in workshops on suturing and splinting. One month is devoted to core didactic instruction each year on emergencies in medicine.

### Common Clinical Presentations:

- Abdominal pain
- Acute loss of vision
- Cardiac arrest
- Cardiac dysrhythmias
- Chest pain
- Coma, altered mental status
- Dehydration
- Diarrhea
- Dyspnea
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Headache
- Hemoptysis
- Hip fracture
- Leg swelling
- Musculoskeletal trauma
- Palpitations
- Severe hypertension
- Shock
- Syncope
- Vaginal bleeding
- Volume depletion
- Vomiting
- Wheezing

## SITE-SPECIFIC CLINICAL COMPETENCIES IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

### Clinical Training and Education in Emergency Medicine (Cont'd):

#### Procedure Skills:

- Advanced cardiac life support
- Arthrocentesis
- Fluorescent staining of cornea
- Mask ventilation to maintain airway
- Needle decompression of tension pneumothorax
- Placement of nasogastric tube
- Insertion of temporary pacemaker
- Pericardiocentesis (optional)
- Suturing of laceration (optional)

#### Ordering and Understanding Tests:

- Aortography
- Computed tomography of head, chest, abdomen
- Echocardiography
- Noninvasive vascular studies
- Pulmonary angiography
- Toxicology studies
- Ultrasound of abdomen, pelvis
- Ventilation/perfusion scans of the lungs

#### Clinical Conditions:

##### *Cardiovascular*

- Acute or chronic congestive heart failure
- Arrhythmias
- Cardiopulmonary arrest
- Chest pain, stable and unstable angina, myocardial infarction
- Hypertension, hypertensive emergencies
- Shock
- Syncope
- Unstable thoracic or abdominal aortic aneurysms

##### *Dermatologic*

- Rash
- Cutaneous ulcers

##### *Domestic violence*

## SITE-SPECIFIC CLINICAL COMPETENCIES IN INTERNAL MEDICINE

### Clinical Training and Education in Emergency Medicine (Cont'd):

#### *Endocrine*

- Diabetes mellitus, hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, diabetic ketoacidosis
- Acute complications of hyperthyroidism, hypothyroidism
- Addisonian crisis

#### *Gastroenterologic*

- Acute abdomen
- Acute diarrhea
- Acute liver failure
- Acute pancreatitis
- Ascites
- Bleeding
- Gallstones, cholecystitis
- Bowel obstruction

#### *Hematologic*

- Acute complications of sickle cell disease
- Anemia, leukopenia, thrombocytopenia
- Easy bruising, purpura, ecchymosis
- Polycythemia, leukocytosis, thrombocytosis

#### *Hyperthermia, hypothermia*

#### *Infectious*

- Active tuberculosis
- Herpes zoster infection
- HIV infection (including *Infectious complications*)
- Meningitis
- Otitis externa, media
- Pharyngitis
- Pneumonia, bronchitis
- Prostatitis, urethritis, epididymitis
- Sepsis
- Sexually transmitted diseases
- Sinusitis
- Upper respiratory infection
- Urinary tract infection, pyelonephritis
- Viral hepatitis
- Herpes simplex infection
- Encephalitis

## **SITE-SPECIFIC CLINICAL COMPETENCIES IN INTERNAL MEDICINE**

### **Clinical Training and Education in Emergency Medicine (Cont'd):**

#### *Neurologic*

- Coma
- Head trauma
- Headache
- Seizure
- Transient ischemic attack, stroke subarachnoid hemorrhage

#### *Ophthalmologic*

- Red eye
- Acute loss of vision

#### *Otolaryngologic*

- Epistaxis
- Vertigo

#### *Overdose, poisoning*

#### *Pulmonary*

- Acute respiratory failure
- Asthma
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Pneumothorax
- Pulmonary embolism, deep venous thrombosis, phlebitis
- Severe airway obstruction

#### *Renal*

- Acute renal failure, chronic renal insufficiency
- Electrolyte, acid-base disorders
- Renal colic, kidney stones

#### *Rheumatologic*

- Acute arthritis (including gout)
- Back pain

Sexual abuse