FAMED 702: Advanced Patient Care (APC)

Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) – Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center

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Overview

The FAMED 702 Advanced Patient Care rotation at Fircrest RHC offers a unique, immersive clinical experience focused on the care of adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). This clinical rotation provides students with the opportunity to develop advanced clinical skills while working with a medically complex, underserved population in a longitudinal care setting.

Students function at a sub-intern level under close faculty supervision, participating in comprehensive, patient-centered care within an interprofessional team.

Why This Rotation

This rotation is designed for students seeking meaningful and rigorous clinical experience that expands beyond traditional acute care models. At Fircrest, students engage in:

- Complex diagnostic reasoning in patients with atypical presentations
- Longitudinal care of individuals with significant medical, psychiatric, and behavioral comorbidities
- Clinical decision-making within ethical, legal, and systems-based frameworks

This experience is particularly valuable for students interested in Family Medicine, Internal Medicine, Psychiatry, Geriatrics, and Med-Peds.

Clinical Experience

Students care for adults with a wide range of conditions, including:

- Intellectual disability and autism spectrum disorder
- Epilepsy and neurologic disorders
- Behavioral health conditions, including catatonia and severe dysregulation

- Chronic medical conditions in the context of functional impairment

Clinical responsibilities include:

- Performing comprehensive histories and physical exams (often adapting to communication differences)
- Developing differential diagnoses and management plans
- Participating in acute care evaluation and longitudinal management
- Collaborating with guardians and care teams in complex decision-making

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Learning Objectives

By the end of the rotation, students will be able to:

Clinical Care

- Formulate and implement management plans for medically complex patients
- Recognize atypical presentations of common conditions in patients with IDD

Communication

- Adapt communication strategies for patients with varying cognitive and verbal abilities
- Engage effectively with guardians and interdisciplinary teams

Systems-Based Practice

- Navigate long-term care systems and interdisciplinary care models
- Understand legal and ethical considerations, including capacity and guardianship

Professional Development

- Develop comfort caring for underserved populations
- Reflect on issues of equity, dignity, and advocacy in healthcare

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Teaching and Supervision

- Direct bedside teaching with experienced faculty
- Case-based discussions emphasizing clinical reasoning

- Opportunities for student-led presentations on relevant topics
- Ongoing formative feedback with a focus on clinical growth

Interprofessional Collaboration

Students work closely with a multidisciplinary team that may include:

- Nursing staff
- Behavioral health specialists
- Physical, occupational, and speech therapists
- Social workers and case managers

This team-based model provides a comprehensive understanding of coordinated patient-centered care.

Unique Features of the Rotation

- Dedicated focus on IDD care, an area often underrepresented in medical education
- Management of challenging behaviors, such as aggression and self- injurious behaviors.
- Longitudinal exposure to patients in a residential care setting
- Emphasis on ethical complexity, including decision-making capacity and guardianship
- Strong mentorship and individualized teaching

Who Should Apply

This rotation is ideal for students who:

- Are interested in caring for medical and socially complex patients with challenging behaviors
- Value longitudinal relationships and continuity of care

- Seek strengthening clinical reasoning and communication skills with nonverbal patients
- Are committed to health equity and serving underserved populations

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Logistics

- **Location:** Fircrest Residential Habilitation Center
- **Rotation Type:** 4 weeks of Advanced Patient Care – FAMED 702
- **Schedule:** Weekday clinical participation with structured teaching components
- **Evaluation:** Based on clinical performance, engagement, and presentation

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Student Perspectives/testimonials *(optional section to include later)*

“This was one of the most meaningful clinical rotations. I learned to truly listen, adapt, and think differently about patient care.

“The complexity of the patients challenged my clinical reasoning in ways no other rotation did.”

Contact Information

For more information about this rotation, please contact:
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