

**University of Florida College of Medicine - Jacksonville**  
**Rheumatology Fellowship Program**  
**Supervisory Rheumatology Consults**

## **Overview**

Inpatient consults are designed to provide the fellow with a comprehensive clinical experience as a rheumatology consultant with the opportunity to diagnose and treat a broad spectrum of inpatient clinical problems under the supervision of the attending faculty. Rheumatology consults are the direct responsibility of the first year fellow. During the second fellowship year (PGY 5), fellows not only need to continue their exposure to clinically complex cases, but also need to develop supervisory skills as well as progressive independent practice. The PGY5 fellow is expected to demonstrate a “junior attending” ability to provide care to his patients. The Supervisory Rheumatology Consult rotation enables the fellow to be aware of all patients on the inpatient service and be able to discuss and direct the first year fellow’s care plans. When on the supervisory consult service, the senior fellow will be aware of all patients on service and will provide advice and direction as needed for the first year fellow. Presence on rounds with the attending on service will be mandated at least once a week and more often if the attending or program director feels it will be beneficial to the educational experience for the senior fellow.

Mix of diseases: Patients present with a variety of musculoskeletal, autoimmune and rheumatologic problems, including systemic lupus erythematosus, vasculitis, polymyalgia rheumatic, rheumatoid arthritis, psoriatic arthritis, ankylosing spondylitis, and osteoarthritis.

Patient Characteristics: the patient population is diverse, male and female, of all ages from adolescent to geriatric, representing most ethnic and racial backgrounds, from all social and economic statuses.

Types of clinical encounters: patient encounters will occur in the hospital as initial consultations or ongoing care of patients with rheumatologic disorders.

Procedures:

- Palpation Guided and ultrasound guided intra-articular aspirations and injections.
- Palpation Guided and ultrasound guided tendon injections.

## **Goals**

In addition to those goals set forth in the Rheumatology Consults Goals and Objectives, second year fellows will seek to:

- Identify key medical problems that the first year fellow needs to address.
- Provide direction in workup and therapeutic management of rheumatology inpatients.
- Direct literature searches, especially in complex cases.
- Assist with directing consultations with other medical providers and allied staff.

## **PGY5**

### **Patient Care**

- Demonstrate supervisory skill in reviewing consults done by the PGY4 fellow, specifically ensuring major elements of history, physical and lab testing are done appropriately.
- Demonstrate direction for workup with non-routine, complicated patients including directing literature search, consultations with other providers and allied personnel.
- Demonstrate proficiency in handling unexpected complications.

### **Practice-Based Learning and Improvement**

- Direct the PGY 4 fellow to use clinical outcome measures to improve individual practice.
- Demonstrate leadership and lead quality improvement initiatives at the divisional level.
- Review, analyze and utilize scientific evidence from the rheumatologic literature for the management of rheumatologic patients, taking a leadership role in guiding the PGY4 fellow and sharing relevant literature reviews with them.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

- Emulate superior counseling to patients and families as demonstrated by elucidating the thought process that led to the diagnosis, providing the reasoning for laboratory testing and treatment that is suggested and finally overall by forming well educated patients about their own disease and involving these patients in making decisions regarding their treatment.
- Supervise the PGY4 fellow's work related to planning patient/family conferences and patient communications/counseling.
- Guide the PGY 4 fellow to present cases succinctly.
- Assume the role of the teacher of rheumatology to junior trainees, medical students and other healthcare professionals.

### **Systems-Based Practice**

- Assist other trainees in the utilization of appropriate healthcare resources for the best care of the rheumatology consult service's patients.
- Model appropriate interactions in multidisciplinary planning, including quality improvement initiatives.
- Demonstrate abilities in using a variety of tools and teamwork skills to identify, analyze, implement, evaluate and report improvement initiatives as well as identify system errors.

### **Professionalism**

- Mentor PGY 4 fellows in professional conduct.
- Provide quarterly literature results regarding medical ethics relevant to rheumatology practice.
- Interact collegially with his/her peer group and other healthcare professionals.

### **Medical Knowledge**

In addition to mastering medical knowledge on the topics mentioned on PGY4 section, the PGY5 fellows are expected to show proficiency in knowledge of:

- Immunogenetics of rheumatic diseases.
- Tolerance and autoimmunity.
- Radiographic and imaging modalities of musculoskeletal system.

### **Methods of achieving objectives**

- Direct patient care under the supervising attending
- Didactic (teaching) sessions with the attending physician
- Self-study using any one of several recommended basic textbooks of clinical Rheumatology
- Select handouts and journal articles on pertinent topics
- Core conference series
- Electronic databases and computerized resources (UF databases, Up To Date)
- Initiate and participate in quality and performance improvement activities

**Assessment tools**

- Global assessment
- Multisource assessment
- Direct observation
- Interpersonal Skills Checklist
  
- The following grading scheme will be utilized
  - Satisfactory: PGY 5 fellow is aware of all patients on inpatient service, directs fellow as needed.
  - Good: Same as above and has personally seen complex cases of clinical and academic merit in addition to the first year fellow.
  - Exemplary: PGY 5 fellow rounds with the first year fellow and has draft management plans for complex patients in place prior to rounding with the attending.

**Evaluation process**

- Goals and Objectives will be reviewed with the fellow at the beginning of each rotation.
- Verbal feedback throughout and at the completion of the rotation from the attending.
- Evaluation form completed by the attending at the conclusion of the rotation, and reviewed with the fellow.
- 360-degree evaluation.
- Evaluation submitted to the Administrative Office for review by the PD.