



Enhanced Skills: Care of the Elderly

OVERVIEW

The Care of the Elderly Program was established at the University of Alberta in 1993 and was formally established in the Department of Family Medicine as the Division of Care of the Elderly in 2003. The programs represent elective, supplementary training in care of the elderly for a six- or 12-month duration, available after the two-year core Family Medicine residency.

Mission

The training is directed toward care of the frail elderly in the context of care of seniors generally, and toward preventing frailty. The following are four broad goals which encompass the Core Professional Activities (CPAs):

1. Defining the discipline in terms of knowledge and attitudes and professionalism CPA 7.
2. Refining and extending clinical skills appropriate to the discipline according to Priority Topics/Key Features CPA 1&2.
3. Creating an awareness of the services available in the community with utilization of a team approach CPA 3.
4. Creating the skills for community leadership in the development of geriatric services and health promotion. CPA 4, 5&6.

DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Objective

To enhance the skills of family physicians in caring for older, often frail, patients. The Triple C COE program curriculum has been designed around 87 Core Competencies directed by the Can-MEDS Family Medicine roles and mapped to the Priority Topics/Key Features and CPAs.

PROGRAM OF RESEARCH

The research agenda for the Division consists of a primary theme and a number of secondary themes. Cognitive impairment is the primary theme. Within this theme, we have identified two core areas of research: CIND (Cognitive Impairment No Dementia) and dementia. Within each of these two core areas, we have targeted research concentration such as screening, barriers to care, evaluation of new models of service delivery, dementia care in an acute care setting, culture and dementia, capacity assessment, driving and caregivers. Secondary themes reflect additional research interests of Division members including falls, geriatric assessment, and health literacy.

Program Overview

The program runs for one year and is an Enhanced Skills Program that is accredited by the College of Family Physicians of Canada. A six-month program is offered to rural physicians and physicians currently in practice. Entry into the COE program is contingent on successful completion of the Certification in the College of Family Physicians (CCFP).

The Core Program includes experience in:

- Inpatient Assessment (on an Inpatient Assessment Unit)
- Rehabilitation (on a Rehabilitation Unit)
- Consultative Geriatrics to inpatients and ED
- Outpatient Clinics
- Geriatric Psychiatry
- Ambulatory Care
- Continuing Care including Supportive Living
- Home living and community care
- Palliative Care
- Research (through completion of a formalized research project)

The program is flexible and offers both urban and rural experiences. Opportunities for teaching and administration/program development are available and encouraged.

APPLICATION

To apply to the 1-year Care of the Elderly Program, please visit www.carms.ca. If you are interested in a 6 month program, please contact Valerie Akintunde COE Academic Program Administrator for further information.

For more information, please contact:

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