

Goals and Objectives of the Clinical Clerk Elective in Critical Care

The student will be able to evaluate a critically ill patient, recognize life threatening situations, and select initial interventions. The student will be able to express his/her thinking in writing and verbally to coworkers and family members.

Specific objectives:

The student will be able to:

1. Examine a comatose patient and describe that examination.
2. Examine the respiratory system, identify respiratory distress, and interpret basic patterns on chest x-ray.

Use blood gas analysis to identify major acid-base disorders and respiratory failure.

Describe the use of oxygen supply mechanisms and the indications for mechanical ventilation.
3. Examine the cardiovascular system, describe and recognize the hemodynamic pattern of hypovolemia and cardiac failure. List at least 2 indications for hemodynamic monitoring.
4. Identify patients in need of nutrition and suggest ways of providing that support.
5. Recognize the patient in shock, provide a basic differential diagnosis of that condition and an initial approach to resuscitation.
6. Present the care of a critically ill patient in an organized fashion so as to identify and prioritize the major problems, and outline a basic investigative and management plan.
7. Identify the concerns of a critically ill patient and his/her family, and the ethical issues involved in decision-making around his/her patient. Demonstrate compassion and insight in discussing these issues with the patient and family.
8. Work as an effective member of a multidisciplinary health care team.