

Goals and Summary

Medical students at BUSM currently have limited clinical experience working directly with the breastfeeding mother/infant dyad in supporting breastfeeding and assisting with management of common breastfeeding problems.

The goal of the Breastfeeding Medicine elective is to provide a blended learning experience of an online module, (the Wellstart lactation curriculum), combined with clinical experience working to support the breastfeeding mother/infant dyad and formulating breastfeeding management plans in a variety of outpatient and community settings.

Objectives

By the end of this elective, the BUSM-4 Student will be able to:

- Explain the anatomy and physiology relevant to normal lactation and the pathophysiology of common breastfeeding problems with reference to the current literature, as evidenced by satisfactory performance on the Wellstart lactation exam, patient encounter portfolio entries, the EBM case presentation, and patient education observed by faculty (U, C, R)
- Apply evidence-based approaches to common breastfeeding problems and use of appropriate interventions by educating and assisting patients under the supervision of faculty. (U, C, S)
- Model professionalism by independently arranging and participating in outpatient clinical experiences and acting as a representative of BUSM in community breastfeeding support settings in a responsible, ethical, and professional manner (C, A, S)
- Communicate in a sensitive and respectful manner with pregnant and breastfeeding women of all cultures and backgrounds, and counsel on breastfeeding in an ethical and patient-centered manner by identifying and tailoring plans of care to patient goals and priorities (B, C, A, S)
- Ensure continuity of lactation care by identifying appropriate resources and support in the community for the breastfeeding dyad (U, S)
- Appraise the state of current evidence as applied to a clinical question and communicate the results of that analysis to other maternity care providers at the MFM noon conference (R, C)
- Build a portfolio of patient experiences that will serve as the basis for compassionate, effective, evidence-based care for breastfeeding mothers and their infants in the student's future career (E, U)

Curriculum

Didactic components of the curriculum include

- Completing the Wellstart Lactation online curriculum and exam.
- Assist and participate in biweekly Prenatal Education classes at BMC

- Remainder of 40 hrs/week of clinical and educational time scheduled and approved by course director from provided list of outpatient experiences.
- Attend Grand Rounds/Noon Conference of OB/Gyn, Pediatrics, and/or Family Medicine.
 - OB/Gyn Grand rounds Wednesday, 7:30-8:30 am.
 - OB/Gyn Maternal-Fetal Medicine Thursday Noon Conference
 - Pediatrics Grand Rounds/Case of the week (Thurs and Fri 8-9am)
 - Family Medicine Tuesday Grand Rounds
- Attend (by phone or in person) one meeting of the Massachusetts Breastfeeding Coalition
 - <http://massbreastfeeding.org/meetings/>

Reading Materials

- Textbook: *Pocket Guide for Lactation Management*, K. Caldwell, C. Turner-Maffei, 2nd edition, 2013
- Additional reading materials on required diagnosis topics will be provided on the Blackboard website.

Evaluation

Mid-clerkship formative assessment: The required diagnosis card and the patient encounter portfolio will be reviewed by the course director.

Summative assessment: The student will be evaluated on the following domains

- Performance on the Wellstart Lactation exam (minimum score on exam >65% (10%))
- Clinical performance as measured by quality of oral presentations and patient encounter portfolio (60%)
- Quality of EBM case presentation (10%)
- Timeliness and professionalism in completing all requirements of the course (20% of grade, <15% on this subscore constitutes a failing grade)

Criteria for Honors (90-100%)/ High Pass (89-80%)/ Pass (79-65%)/ Fail (<65% or <15% on professionalism subscore)

Remediation: Deficiencies will be addressed on a case-by-case basis and may involve supplemental reading and/or clinical activities.