

Pain Stewardship – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Summa Health System – Akron Campus Hospital (ACH); Inpatient Pain Stewardship and Palliative Care consult services
- **Duration:** 2 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

The Pain Stewardship rotation provides residents with focused exposure to evidence-based pain management principles, emphasizing safe opioid prescribing, multimodal analgesia, and stewardship strategies to minimize harm while optimizing symptom control. Residents participate in interdisciplinary stewardship rounds, structured chart reviews, and consultative pain management activities, with an emphasis on balancing effective pain control with patient safety and regulatory requirements.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop proficiency in evaluating complex pain presentations, applying evidence-based pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic pain management strategies, and practicing responsible pain stewardship that prioritizes patient safety, regulatory compliance, and high-value care.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Conduct comprehensive pain assessments through detailed chart review, review of diagnostic studies, and evaluation of prior pain management strategies
- Develop and recommend individualized pain management plans incorporating pharmacologic, multimodal, and non-pharmacologic therapies
- Balance effective symptom control with minimization of opioid-related risks, including misuse, dependence, and adverse events
- Monitor patient response to pain management strategies and adjust recommendations based on clinical outcomes and emerging evidence
- Identify red-flag pain presentations that warrant further diagnostic evaluation or specialty referral

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology of acute and chronic pain, including neurobiological and psychosocial contributors
- Apply evidence-based guidelines for pain management, including appropriate opioid initiation, dosing, and conversion
- Describe the role of adjuvant medications and non-pharmacologic therapies in multimodal pain management
- Understand and apply principles of pain stewardship to reduce opioid overuse and prevent opioid-related adverse events
- Demonstrate familiarity with Ohio laws and institutional policies governing opioid prescribing

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Reflect on personal clinical decision-making related to pain management and stewardship
- Incorporate feedback from supervising physicians, pharmacists, and interdisciplinary team members to improve clinical recommendations
- Participate in chart reviews, case discussions, and quality improvement activities related to pain management
- Develop strategies to remain current with evolving pain management literature and guidelines

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate clearly and collaboratively with providers regarding pain assessments, treatment options, and stewardship recommendations
- Facilitate discussions addressing the risks and benefits of various pain management strategies
- Collaborate effectively with interdisciplinary team members, including physicians, pharmacists, and palliative care staff, to coordinate comprehensive pain care

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate ethical behavior and accountability in the management of pain and controlled substances
- Uphold patient confidentiality and respect patient dignity in all clinical interactions
- Approach pain management with empathy, recognizing the impact of pain on patient quality of life
- Adhere to legal, institutional, and regulatory requirements related to opioid prescribing and pain management

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize institutional protocols and stewardship resources to promote safe and effective pain management
- Coordinate care with inpatient services and community resources to support comprehensive pain management
- Identify system-level barriers to optimal pain control, including access to medications and follow-up care
- Advocate for system-based improvements in pain management practices and policies

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Identify common rotation-specific conditions and participate in patient care or consultative activities under direct supervision
- Demonstrate appropriate documentation, communication, and professionalism

PGY-2:

- Develop prioritized assessments and propose management or stewardship recommendations with indirect supervision
- Apply evidence-based guidelines and incorporate faculty feedback

PGY-3:

- Independently manage routine rotation-specific responsibilities with attending oversight
- Demonstrate advanced clinical reasoning, leadership, and readiness for independent practice

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Participation in daily Pain Stewardship rounds
- Inpatient palliative care consult exposure related to symptom management
- Structured chart review and development of stewardship recommendations
- One-on-one case review with PharmD and supervising faculty
- Completion of pain management case modules and required readings
- Informal didactic teaching tailored to learner interests and career goals

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct observation and ongoing formative feedback from supervising faculty and pharmacists
- Review of clinical reasoning and stewardship recommendations
- End-of-rotation summative evaluation mapped to applicable ACGME milestones

Residents receive ongoing formative feedback and summative feedback at the conclusion of the rotation.

Supervision

Faculty supervision is provided in accordance with ACGME supervision guidelines and is based on resident demonstrated competence, PGY level, and patient acuity.