

Dermatology – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Summa Health System Dermatology Clinics (primarily ambulatory)
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with exposure to the evaluation and management of common dermatologic conditions encountered in internal medicine practice. The experience emphasizes accurate lesion description, diagnostic reasoning based on morphology, initial management of common skin disorders, recognition of conditions requiring urgent intervention or subspecialty referral, and effective collaboration with dermatology specialists.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop the knowledge and clinical skills necessary to evaluate common dermatologic complaints, initiate appropriate management, recognize serious or complex skin conditions, and determine when referral to dermatology is indicated.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Obtain a focused dermatologic history and perform a complete skin examination
- Describe skin lesions accurately using standard dermatologic terminology (morphology, distribution, configuration)
- Evaluate and initiate management for common dermatologic presentations, including rashes, pruritus, infections, and inflammatory skin conditions
- Recognize dermatologic findings that require urgent evaluation or referral to dermatology
- Demonstrate awareness of basic procedural techniques, including skin biopsy and cryotherapy, including indications and limitations

Medical Knowledge

Residents will continue participation in the residency-required MKSAP board review program to support ongoing medical knowledge development.

- Explain normal skin anatomy and basic pathophysiology of common dermatologic conditions
- Develop differential diagnoses for skin disorders based on lesion morphology and clinical context
- Identify common benign and malignant skin lesions
- Describe prevention strategies for skin disease, including sun protection and skin cancer prevention
- Explain indications for dermatology consultation and referral

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal learning gaps in dermatology and utilize evidence-based resources to address them
- Incorporate feedback from dermatology faculty to improve diagnostic accuracy and documentation
- Apply current literature and clinical guidelines to dermatologic decision-making

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate dermatologic findings clearly in written documentation and oral presentations
- Discuss diagnoses, treatment plans, and preventive strategies effectively with patients
- Collaborate with dermatology faculty and clinic staff to coordinate patient care

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate professionalism, reliability, and accountability in ambulatory and consultative settings
- Respect patient privacy, modesty, and confidentiality during dermatologic examinations
- Maintain professional appearance and behavior consistent with outpatient clinical practice

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Identify appropriate community and specialty resources for patients with chronic or complex skin disorders
- Recognize the role of dermatology within the broader healthcare system
- Utilize referral pathways effectively to optimize patient outcomes

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Recognize common dermatologic conditions and report findings using appropriate terminology under direct supervision
- Initiate basic evaluation and management plans

PGY-2:

- Develop differential diagnoses and propose management strategies with indirect supervision
- Apply preventive counseling related to skin health and sun exposure

PGY-3:

- Independently manage common dermatologic conditions with attending oversight
- Advise junior learners on lesion description, diagnostic reasoning, and referral indications

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Ambulatory dermatology clinic experiences with faculty supervision
- Exposure to inpatient dermatology consults as available
- Case-based discussions focused on lesion morphology and diagnosis
- Independent reading using MKSAP, dermatology texts, and evidence-based online resources

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct observation by dermatology faculty
- End-of-rotation faculty evaluation mapped to applicable ACGME milestones
- Assessment of clinical reasoning, documentation quality, and communication skills

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 PGY level, demonstrated competence, and clinical complexity.