Hospice and Palliative Medicine Program Aims

Hospice and Palliative fellows will be trained in subspecialty care developing expertise in the prevention, assessment, and management of physical symptoms associated with a serious or life-limiting illness as well caring for the psychological, and spiritual needs of the patient and family. Our health system includes a level 1 trauma center, referral center for heart/lung transplant and LVADs, Bone Marrow Transplant, as well as a robust collaboration with interventional pain specialists. This training includes patient-directed care across the continuum all within the Spectrum Health system (inpatient, rehab and long-term care facilities, clinic-based, home-based palliative care, telemedicine, as well as inpatient and community hospice services). Fellows will experience the interdisciplinary approach to care, partnering with nurses, advanced practice providers, social workers, and chaplains. They will learn how social determinants of health and health disparities impact the patients we serve, how to work through barriers to healthcare, and promote equity in care. The physician must develop knowledge in critical review of literature and application to clinical practice. Performance evaluations will evaluate progression of fellow performance and improvement toward unsupervised practice with the goal of autonomous practice based on subspecialty-specific milestones. They will be regularly evaluated in the six core competencies: Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Practice-Based Learning and Improvement, Professionalism, Interpersonal and Communication Skills, and System-Based Practice.