

DESCRIPTION:  
**PHP 593 or PHC 594 Community Track- Longitudinal Rotation** at Coastal Medical  
Pharmaceutical Care to Patients with **HIV/AIDS**

**Preceptor:** Kathleen Melbourne, Pharm.D,

The HIV/AIDS longitudinal experience at Coastal Medical requires a highly motivated student who is interested in learning about the complexities involved in caring for HIV/AIDS patients. The student must be able to take the initiative to introduce him/herself to the medical and non-medical staff, explain his/her role to patients and providers, and demonstrate the ability to communicate therapeutic recommendations effectively. The student will acquire the necessary skills to recognize medication-related problems in the HIV-infected patient, to intervene with recommendations to alleviate medication-related problems, and to counsel patients on the appropriate way to take medications. The student who elects to gain this type of experience will have the opportunity to develop clinical and professional skills in the context of an excellent medical and pharmacy collaborative team; and to do so in an innovative practice setting.

The student on this rotation must face a young and diverse patient population dealing with a terminal illness; these patients may be facing a variety of psychosocial and economic challenges. Depression, sexual dysfunction, active illicit drug use, and alcoholism are only a few issues which must be considered as the drug therapy of an HIV-infected patient is evaluated. Serious and sometimes uncomfortable situations arise in which the student must act with diplomacy and compassion. The student must seriously consider any preconceived ideas and judgments regarding HIV-infected individuals and honestly assess if he or she could approach this patient population nonjudgmentally before committing to this experience.

**Rotation availability:** Wednesdays or Fridays.

**Goals:**

1. To provide pharmaceutical care to HIV-infected patients seeking HIV medical care at Coastal Medical.
2. To develop communication and interpersonal skills for providing patient-specific recommendations.
3. To develop communication skills for counseling and educating HIV-infected patients about their medication.
4. To recognize adherence barriers and be able to suggest interventions to improve adherence.
5. To identify drug-drug and drug-food interactions in an HIV+ patient's regimen.
6. To understand the prejudices, discriminations, and psychosocial issues that HIV infected individuals must face and how this impacts on drug therapy.

## Objectives:

1. To review patients charts to identify patients at risk of medication-related problems.
2. To flag charts of patients with whom you would like to meet with that day.
2. To clarify current medications and document in the chart.
3. To conduct medication histories on patients whose drug regimen or drug history is unclear.
4. To assess and implement methods to evaluate a patient's medication adherence and to explore methods to improve medication adherence.
5. To counsel HIV-infected patients starting new ART-related medications.
6. To provide written documentation of clinical interventions.
7. To record clinical interventions made and forward this information monthly to preceptor.
8. To assist in the recruitment and monitoring of HIV patients enrolled into clinical trials.
9. To research relevant HIV-related topics as they relate to patient care.
10. To become familiar with and to identify eligible patients to enroll into the Expanded Access protocols at Coastal Medical.
11. To update or develop as necessary, new medication sheets for patients receiving HIV-related medications.
12. To review the literature on relevant HIV-related topics and review findings/articles with preceptor on a regular basis.
13. To describe the therapy and monitoring of the treatment or prophylaxis for the following: -*Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia -Cryptococcal meningitis -*Mycobacterium-avium intracellulare* complex -Oral/esophageal candidiasis -Toxoplasmosis -Cytomegalovirus retinitis -Herpes infections -HIV-wasting syndrome

The student should be able to do the following for each of the above: a) Identify subjective and objective clinical and laboratory findings b) Outline appropriate initial therapy c) Discuss alternative therapies used after initial therapies have failed or patients are intolerant d) Discuss appropriate adjuvant therapies