

Special Care Rotation

Special Care in Dentistry

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Goals and Objectives

The Special Care Rotation (SPC) is designed to provide greater awareness surrounding the oral health needs of persons with developmental and other disabilities. This rotation will help you:

1. Develop a working knowledge of cognitive, mental illness, and physical disabilities; and the impact these conditions may have on the oral health of the individuals.
2. Promote oral disease prevention for patients in the clinic environment and community settings through oral disease risk assessment and creating customized prevention programs.
3. Develop an appreciation for the medical, dental, and social needs of a special needs patient, and how all these factors translate into appropriate individualized care plans. Some examples are: guardianship / consent, direct care staffing and coordination of provision of direct dental care to the special needs patient, education of patient / care provider / guardian / others as it relates to oral health care needs of a specific individual, and the importance of routine daily care in collaboration with routine office visits.
4. Develop the ability to evaluate special needs patients for appropriate referral if dental care cannot be provided in the current setting.

This may translate for you in many ways:

- **Interact** with a sub-population of people you may not have the opportunity to meet or treat otherwise.
- Begin **developing** a working knowledge of cognitive, physical, emotional, and developmental disabilities.
- **Discover** resources available to and for patients with special circumstances.
- **Grapple** with your own biases and limitations, perhaps some you weren't even aware of.
- **Interface** your knowledge of dentistry and science with the reality of someone's limitations and / or diagnosis.
- **Think creatively** and realistically about treatment goals, treatment planning, oral disease assessment, oral health promotion, and, what defines "success".
- **Realize** the multiple factors involved in care and planning. This list includes: guardianship / consent, staffing (both at the clinic and the group home), coordination of care, transportation, dental knowledge of the direct-care provider, medication, syndrome, and other medical considerations, behavior management, and social needs.
- **Consider** a variety of treatment options like p.o. anxiolytics, i.v. sedation, general anesthesia, papoose wraps, & behavior modification techniques.

- **Hone** your communication skills in a variety of ways with a variety of personality types.
- **Extract** a “nugget” of information which will aid you through your lifetime.
- **Mature** into a more open-minded, well-rounded, diverse practitioner and human being.

Expectations

The Special Care Dentistry Rotation is a one week (5 day) observational rotation. Every 4th year student, including IS students, are required to attend. [**Faculty IS** are required to attend a modified rotation. Please **contact the rotation coordinator directly**, preferably at the beginning of the academic year.] You are expected to **engage** in clinic observation throughout your week rotation. You will be given a written Competency at the conclusion of the rotation. The rotation grade assigned is part of your overall Department of Public Health and Community Service grade.

You are expected to be at your site at 8:45 am, M - F. There is a break for lunch. You will be allowed to leave at 3 p.m. in order to return to TUSDM for evening clinic session. Tardiness, extended lunch breaks, and leaving early will result in a point deduction from your rotation score. Unexcused absences will result in a deduction from the 1000 point total. TUSDM CPM and MCP guidelines are followed.

Professional demeanor, ethics, HIPAA, and OSHA compliance are expected, and are part of your rotation grade assessment. You are considered part of the dental treatment team while you are on rotation with us. Conduct inconsistent with dental professionalism will not be tolerated or overlooked.

Treatment gowns and PPE are available for your use while at the sites. You may wear scrubs or professional attire, whichever you prefer.

All TUSDM school holidays are observed. You will not be required to “make-up” these sessions if your rotation falls during a week containing a holiday. This includes Bates Day. Please contact the Rotation Coordinator **two weeks** in advance for questions regarding observances of religious holidays.

If you are assigned rotation during the week of NERB, but you are not taking NERB, you will be expected to complete a full week rotation.

Accommodations for interviews, other board exam absences, and make-up sessions, are handled via the Rotation Coordinator. It is **YOUR** responsibility to contact her. A two-week notice is expected, whenever possible.

Sometimes, one or all of the sites may be closed for one day due to a variety of circumstances (i.e. an all-day staff in-service). If your assigned site is closed for a day while you are scheduled there on rotation, you will be advised in advance.

Other Information

It is **highly preferred** that you read the Unit 1: Introduction and Unit 2: Intellectual Disability of Special Care in Dentistry before presenting for rotation.

