

The Patient's Voice: Humanities Component of the Family Medicine Third Year Clerkship

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Description: The family medicine third year clerkship is a required longitudinal experience in which all third year students are assigned to the practice of a board-certified family physician, either at university practice sites or in the community, one-half day per week for the entire year. In addition to learning basic skills of physical examination, assessment, diagnosis, and intervention, over the year students are also expected to review 14 standard case vignettes with their preceptors (see below). These topics are also discussed at 5 didactic sessions, at which time students are expected to have completed SOAP notes on actual patients with the problems in question.

Humanities Component: Each case vignette has an accompanying literary reading (see below). Students are expected to read each selection and be prepared to discuss them with both their preceptor and during the small group didactic sessions. In writing their SOAP notes, students must explicitly note how the literary selection influenced the plan they developed for each particular patient.

Objectives:

- To provide additional perspectives on the patient experience of illness for 14 common medical disorders seen in family practice settings
- To encourage students to make concrete links between humanities and practical clinical applications

Family Medicine Clerkship Vignettes and corresponding humanity readings:

1. Alcohol Abuse
 - *The Spirit's Funnel* by Mladen Seidl, M.D.
2. Anemia
 - *The Bleeding Girl* by Frank Huyler, M.D.
3. BPH
 - *Intoxicated by My Illness* by Anatole Broyard
4. Depression
 - *A Measure of my days* by David Lokterkamp, MD
 - *Manuel* by Rafael Campo, M.D,
5. Diabetes
 - *Diabetes* by James Dickey
6. Difficult Patient
 - *Second Thoughts* by Tillman Farley, MD
7. Domestic Violence
 - *Dr. Harris's Residence* by Gillian Kendall
 - *Keeping Secrets* by Suzanne Summers
 - *Rose* by Andre Dubus
8. Elevated Blood Pressure

- *Renascence* by Margaret Robison
 - *Relearning to Speak* by Gerry Sloan
 - *Five months after my stroke* by Margaret Robison
 - *Stroke* by Arthur Ginsberg, M.D.
9. Failure to Thrive
- *Failure to Thrive* by Ron Charach, M.D.
10. Obesity
- *The Six Hundred Pound Man* by Jack Coulehan, M.D.
 - *Fat Lady* by Irving Yalom, MD
 - *The Fat Girl* by Andre Dupus
 - *Walking the dog* by John Wright, M.D.
11. Rash
- *Psoriasis* by Kathleen Newroe
12. Smoking Cessation
- *Antonio*
 - *July 16th*
 - *Black Lung* by Erick L. Dyer, MD
13. Sports Medicine—Knee
- *Dear Left Knee* by John Davis
 - *On Losing My Anterior Cruciate Ligament* by B. Cooker
14. URI Sinusitis
- *Stricken by Flu* by Mladen Seidl
 - *Mid-Winter Flu* by Brian Cronwall
 - *The Common Cold* by Ogden Nash