

Breastfeeding Management PED 8029 (MS-IV): Elective description, goals, and objectives.

Course book description

This elective provides an introduction to breastfeeding as a medical topic, with precepting by lactation specialists at clinical sites and self-directed learning through complementary activities. The focus is on the assessment and management of the mother/infant breastfeeding dyad. Please contact Laura Primak at least two weeks prior to elective start: laura.primak@cuanschutz.edu.

Goal: To provide the medical student, through both inpatient and outpatient clinical care experiences, with basic breastfeeding knowledge and assessment skills needed to evaluate and care for the breastfeeding mother and her infant with a variety of problems and medical conditions.

Elective Description:

This two week elective focuses on active learning through time with lactation specialists in clinical and community settings. The course co-director, Dr. Maya Bunik, is a pediatrician with a passion for lactation as a medical topic and specialty area, and who directs her own lactation clinic at Children's Hospital. The elective is self-scheduled, with all necessary materials provided by the course coordinator, Laura Primak, RD, CNSC. In order to maximize clinical learning time, students should contact the course coordinator a minimum of two weeks before the start date to obtain materials and start making contacts for scheduling.

Topic areas:

There will be a focus on the management of normal issues of breastfeeding initiation and maintenance, common problems encountered during various stages of breastfeeding (initiation, early infancy, later infancy, and toddler nursing), uncommon problems and medical issues in the mother and/or infant, and breastfeeding issues for the working mother.

Patient care and medical knowledge objectives:

- To understand the basic science of breast physiology and lactation
- To identify the medical benefits of breastfeeding to the mother and child
- To recognize the public health issues surrounding breastfeeding
- To understand how to effectively promote breastfeeding and help new mothers to overcome breastfeeding barriers
- To increase awareness of medically sound nutrition resources for physicians and patients