Outpatient Nephrology Continuity Clinic

The Fellow’s continuity practice is an integral part of their training. Fellows have a three-half a day weekly continuity clinic for their entire Fellowship. Fellows will have an outpatient general nephrology continuity clinic at AMC South Clinical Campus and at the Stratton VA Medical Center. These clinics see new outpatient consultations, and continues follow-up of established patients. The Fellow-to-preceptor ratio is 1:1.

Lines of Responsibility:
Fellows report to Attending Nephrologist during this experience and if the Attending Nephrologist is unavailable, Fellows report to the Key Faculty Nephrologist on call and ultimately to the Program Director. All patients assigned to the Fellow are seen first by the Fellow with the case then being presented to the Attending and the case then subsequently discussed together. This team then sees the patient together and decides and relays further work-up and therapy. All aspects of acute and chronic renal disease may be seen in this clinic. The Fellow dictates all letters and progress notes on his patients, which are reviewed with the Attending. A Fellow follows his patients throughout the 24-month period. A Fellow sees an average of 1 new and 3 established patients/clinic day.

Goals and Objectives:
The primary goal is to provide the Fellows an opportunity to follow patients in a longitudinal fashion. This also provide a setting in which the Fellows can experience, as close as possible, the outpatient general Nephrology conditions they are likely to encounter in their future practice. It is also the goal to enhance the Fellows’ clinical and time management skills. To learn the evaluation and management of the Following Areas of Medical Knowledge: Although much of this is taught during the day as the Fellow sees and presents patients to Attending Nephrologists, it is expected that the Fellow make a habit of localizing and assimilating medical evidence from appropriate medical journals as well as other sources of information technology (“Practice-based learning and improvement”).

- The objectives are for the Fellows to be able to effectively manage end stage renal disease on an outpatient basis.
- The aim of this outpatient clinic is for the Fellows to be able to appropriately diagnose and manage renal causes of hypertension.
- A special emphasis is made on preparing patients for ESRD; considering nutritional, socioeconomic, and access concerns as well as requiring the patient to be an active participant in the ESRD modality choice.
- These skills need to be undertaken with an awareness and responsiveness to the larger context of system health care, as well as an ability to effectively communicate with patients, families and other health professionals. It assumes and requires the Fellow working effectively within the health care system that provides these therapies and determines the appropriate modality of treatment for each patient. There must be effective communication between The Fellow and the patients, nurses and staff at the clinic. The Fellow must show compassion for patients in an ESRD program being aware of how difficult it must be for a patient to have their access threatened. Doing the above integrates the following competencies: “Patient Care”, “Systems-based Practice”, “Professionalism”, and “Interpersonal and Communication Skills”.