

Academic Support Network
Student Suggestion Sheet
Pediatrics

Overview: Pediatrics is a 6 week rotation in which you will be exposed to all healthcare aspects for infants, children, and adolescents. There is an outpatient and inpatient component (usually 3 weeks each). Common pathologies encountered include failure to thrive, RSV, rotavirus, sickle cell disease, cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, and a myriad of others.

The inpatient component of this rotation is quite similar to internal medicine regarding time commitment. However, the pathology and patient care can be drastically different. Children are not just small adults. They suffer from different diseases and require a different type of clinical interaction.

When on inpatient, read up on your patients, know their labs, H and P, and any other pertinent data. Learning to take a good and thorough pediatric H and P is a must. Differences from the standard adult H and P include a detailed immunization record, HEADSSS (home, education, activities, drugs, sex, suicide, seatbelt) evaluation, birth history (for younger children/infants), and a developmental history. Learning to interact with the parents is also a fun (and sometimes challenging) part of pediatrics.

Outpatient will include clinic (general and specialties) and possibly ED time. It is important to know developmental milestones and pertinent history questions regarding infant and toddler development.

This clerkship also has an Evidence Based Medicine component. Please see the specific clerkship directions regarding this. It is an excellent opportunity to brush-up on your EBM knowledge and understanding of EBM-related statistics.

Grading, similar to all other clerkships, is 1/3 shelf exam and 2/3 resident/attending subjective scores. Working hard on the wards, researching you patients, and taking a thorough H and P are good starts towards a solid clinical grade. See below for information on the shelf exam.

Books: Similar to other rotations, at a minimum you should have a textbook and question book.

Textbook: The "Harrison's of Pediatrics" is **Nelson's Textbook of Pediatrics**. This is excellent for reference but probably too much for day-to-day reading. The **Harriet-Lane Handbook: A Manual for Pediatric House Officers** is an excellent resource on the wards. If you are planning on going into pediatrics, consider these, otherwise, they usually can be found lying around on the pediatric wards.

Review Books:

- 1) First Aid Pediatrics – similar to other books in the First Aid series, this is an outline of the important topics. If you don't already know the material this book may not sufficiently prepare you for the shelf exam. We strongly recommend not using this book as a primary source.
- 2) Blueprints Pediatrics – this covers the major topics, but may not go into enough depth. Consider supplementing with other texts.
- 3) NMS Pediatrics – lots of information, but may be too much for the 6 week clerkship. Start reading early and often if you choose this book.

Question books:

- 1) Pre-Test: Pediatrics – contains questions pertaining to most of the relevant pediatric systems. 500 questions, so to get the most out of this book, start early.
- 2) Swanson's Family Practice Review – consider working through the pediatrics section.

Exam Pointers:

The shelf exam is 100 multiple-choice questions. Standard pediatric questions can be expected including topics such as sore throat, otitis media, diarrhea, failure to thrive, hematologic disorders, etc. Review books and question books will cover most of these in enough detail.

We hope that this sheet helps direct your studying. This sheet does not list everything you need to know and it is highly recommended that you follow up with your student advisor and your clerkship director for more specific advice regarding your situation and how you should approach the remaining exams.

Good luck!