

PATCH Learning Objectives for Fellows: Expanding Knowledge in Palliative Home Care

Fellows who train in the PATCH Program will become more knowledgeable in:

1. Determining what patients are appropriate for physician home visits
2. Determining when and if hospitalization is appropriate.
3. Determining when and if institutionalization is appropriate
4. Conducting a home safety and functional assessment
5. Understanding the physician's role in terminal care in the home, including symptom management and grief
6. Understanding the physician's responsibilities and approach to elder abuse and neglect
7. Medication use in the homebound elderly. (Including how to make decisions based on benefit/burden, cost, availability, drug-drug and drug-disease interactions, side effects, adherence, and patient and family ability to understand and manage.)
8. Appropriate use, availability, costs, and reimbursement sources for community services (e.g., senior centers, meal programs, adult day care, visiting nurses and other personnel, hospice, respite)
9. Assessment and treatment of:
 - immobility,
 - ulcers and skin breakdown,
 - enteral feedings
 - and chronic urinary catheters
10. Treating dementia related symptoms such as agitation.
11. Reimbursement mechanisms for home care
12. The prevalence, symptoms, and referral sources for help with caregiver stress.