

## **Progression of Training and Skills Pulmonology**

### **Preamble**

COPD is the third leading cause of death in the U.S. There is currently no cure but it is both preventable and treatable. Clinical practice guidelines are available and the major current directions of COPD management are to assess and monitor the disease, reduce the risk factors, manage stable COPD, prevent and treat acute exacerbations and manage comorbidity. The only measures shown to reduce mortality are smoking cessation and supplemental oxygen. COPD imposes a lifetime burden and the need for long-term support and commitment to the individual and that individual's family.

### **Goals**

- Acquire history and physical exam skills, develop expertise in diagnostic testing, and learn management of pulmonary disease
- Understand the range of pulmonary problems and pathology
- Demonstrate the ability to complete a pulmonary diagnostic workup
- Demonstrate the ability to communicate effectively with patients and others involved in their care
- Understand and utilize appropriate pulmonary resources, including other health care providers

### **Objectives**

- Completes a comprehensive history and physical examination with particular focus on the pulmonary examination
- Interprets PFTs, ABGs, and chest x-ray
- Understands diagnostic features of V/Q scans and chest CT
- Recognizes and responds to signs of impending respiratory failure
- Evaluates and manages obstructive and restrictive pulmonary diseases
- Manages asthma at various levels of severity
- Recognizes clinical presentations of exercise-induced asthma and pulmonary hypertension
- Appropriately manages patients with hemoptysis
- Describes the physiology of obstructive and restrictive pulmonary disease
- Understands pharmacology of bronchodilators and steroids
- Understands the use of invasive and noninvasive (including CPAP and NIPPV) ventilation and mechanical ventilation for patients with ARDS
- Understands evaluation for sleep disorders, solitary lung nodule, pleural effusion, interstitial pneumonia, and latent tuberculosis
- Communicates effectively with patients with severe pulmonary conditions, as well as with their families
- Supports pulmonary guidelines to enhance healthcare quality

These goals and objectives are achieved through a combination of structured inpatient experience, together with didactic instruction. In addition to a pulmonology rotation, the overlap with general medicine should be apparent.

*[Revised and approved at the Faculty Meeting April 3, 2012]*

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