Toxicology Orientation

2022
Overview

• Expectations
• Professionalism
• Background
• Daily operations
• Taking call
• Documentation
Welcome

We are excited to have you:
• Residents / Fellows: EM, Peds, IM, Psychiatry
• Students: WUSTL, away rotators

Our service:
• Clinical service, education, research
• Toxicology, Addiction Medicine
• St. Louis Children’s Hospital, Barnes Jewish Hospital.
• MBMC Telemedicine (Attendings and APPs only)
Overall Expectations

• Check-in with Sara Delatte (sara.delatte@wustl.edu, 314-273-1928)
  • Absences – Must be cleared in advance of the rotation with Dr. Sarah Berg barring unforeseen circumstances (Jeopardy/backup, bereavement, etc.)
    • Rotators: 9-5p M-F daily (often will leave earlier than 5p)
    • On-call residents/fellows (EM/PEM): Must be able to take overnight call
    • Switching call or presentation dates should be cleared with one of the fellows
  • Have a valid WUSTL badge

• Attend rounds daily and on-time

• Complete call as assigned
  • Complete case documentation as soon as possible, but by next day AM rounds

• Rotators here for 4 weeks
  • 3-4 picture projects (1/wk)
  • 1 formal 20 minute presentation
Professionalism

• General
  • Be on-time, business casual dress code, have a white coat available for rounds
• Being a consultant – You’re now the “specialist” on the other end of the phone:
  • We are always happy to see a consult in person, though not all consults need to be seen emergently. If you’re unclear about the reason for a consult, ask the attending
  • Do not criticize, argue, threaten... common sense
  • Staff all consults with the attending prior to providing toxicologic recommendations
  • Our credibility is dependent upon the information you provide and how you provide it!
Nuts and Bolts
Clinical Service

- Attendings on service change on Monday (7a) and Thursday (12p)
- Inpatient addiction medicine consults: Tues, Thurs, Fri, Sat
- Rounds daily on active toxicology patients
- Rounds PRN on addiction medicine patients
Rounds

- We typically meet in the toxicology fellow office on the 6th floor of Renard
Your first day

• Check-in with the fellow

• Select a date for your end of rotation talk

• Start to think about topics for picture projects (more later)

• Check your call dates on google calendar (fellows, attendings have access to change)
• Login always “tox”
• Password changes quarterly and is posted in the fellow’s office
• Why password protected? Because it has our personal numbers and schedule
• Contains schedule, assigned modules, rotator documents and a place to upload presentations

2020-2021 Tox Didactics Folder (WUSTL Box)

Upload Presentation

This server is not HIPAA compliant. DO NOT UPLOAD ANY CONTENT CONTAINING PHI!

Accepted file types: doc/x, ppt/x, pdf, jpg, png, gif, tif. Max file size 50MB

Please name your file: "yyyy-mm-dd Last-name type one-or-two-word-descriptor.extension" (e.g. 2021-01-01 Smith picture project mushroom poisoning.pptx)

Include your name and title (MS3/4, resident / fellow) on the first slide so those of us on Zoom know who you are!

Read our disclaimer

Please be patient and wait, you will receive a confirmation below the upload button when complete.

Browse... No files selected.  Upload File(s)

Required Toxicology Modules

Registration link (User Group "Washington University Emergency Medicine", Passcode "was")
- Upload your picture projects / final presentations to the rotator site the night before it is due
- Pay attention to the flashing red text to name your file in a way so we know who you are and what your presentation is! If your file isn’t named properly you may get missed or skipped!

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Required Toxicology Modules

Registration link (User Group "Washington University Emergency Medicine", Passcode "was")
Thursday Didactics

• Range of topics and formats
  • National toxicology case conferences (ACMT, AACT)
  • Occupational health lectures
  • Toxicology core-content readings (Goldfrank’s)
  • Journal Club
  • Outside events

• Read the material and be prepared to share your opinions!
Taking Call

• We take call for inpatient consults for ED, floor, OB, ICU patients at Barnes Jewish Hospital and St. Louis Children's Hospital

• While on-call:
  • Be within ~30min of the hospital
  • Be ready to come in (sober, have scrubs, etc.)
  • Call back promptly
  • Staff all calls promptly with the attending
Taking Call – Special Circumstances

- Doctor's access line / Children's direct
  - Calls from outside hospitals requesting our advice
  - Please ask the RN coordinating the call to add your attending to the call

- HAZMAT
  - We are HAZMAT consultants for a national rail company (CSX)
  - If you get a call regarding a rail chemical spill, call the service attending right away
  - If unable to get ahold of service attending right away, Dr. Schwarz

- Transfers from IL
  - You may be paged by Toxikon (medical toxicology backup to IL poison center) for patients followed in Illinois being transferred to us
  - Illinois poison center: 312-906-6020

- Telemedicine consults at MBMC
  - These pages should go to a separate pager, but you may get a call from MBMC
  - If patient is at MBMC take down the information and say that the attending on service will get back to you
Taking call – General

• "I'm Dr. _____ with the toxicology service."

• Get as much relevant info as possible (See next slide)
  • History of exposure, scene, other medications in the home, physical exam with a good description of mental status and focusing on potential toxidromes, management thusfar

• "I will staff this with my attending and call you back shortly with recommendations."

• Tox Exam: Mental status, pupils, skin (diaphoresis, flushing, cool), bowel sounds, rigidity / clonus in upper or lower extremities, reflexes (usually lower)
Example of relevant findings for a new consult

Courtesy of Dave Liss
Taking call – General

• Olson’s is a helpful resource while on call

• Try to come up with a tentative plan for management

• That being said, staff critically-ill patients right away and all patients promptly
Taking call – Addiction consults

• Ellen Salmo, PA is part of our team and sees addiction consults primarily with the attending on service: Tues & Thurs 9a-230p

• **Consults 230p-5p M-F or all day Saturday are covered by Tox on-call rotator with the attending on service**

• Consults are primarily for patients with an opioid use disorder interested in buprenorphine or methadone medication assisted therapy (MAT)
  • Interested rotators are always welcome to on addiction rounds, but are not expected to
Taking call – Addiction consults

• Addiction consults after 5p can typically be seen the following day, but after taking the call, staff with the attending on service.

• Often, we will get calls on Mon, Wed, Sun asking for a new addiction consult. Please politely redirect the team to page psychiatry. If you have any questions or have difficulty with the treating team, discuss with the attending on service.
Taking Call – Notes

• On first day you should be given access to the “.TOX” SmartPhrases
  • TOXNOTE
  • TOXADDNOTE
  • TOXPROGRESS
  • TOXPEDNOTE
  • TOXPEDPROGRESS

• Don’t use the SmartText, it’s out of date
Taking Call – Notes

- This is wrong, there need to be the first and last name of an attending provider.

- A valid family history has to have a diagnosis and a family relationship.
  - “No history of diabetes in mother” is acceptable
  - “No known problems in mother” is acceptable
  - “No pertinent family history” is not

- Fill out remaining smart text links like any other note.

- You cannot share notes with attendings, they can only cosign and attest to notes. D/w service attending for the pertinent recommendations you should include in A/P.

- Sign your note and select the service attending as cosigner.

This is a medical record. It must be accurate, complete, and appropriate.
Taking call – Follow-ups

• If sick / unstable, you may be following on labs / vitals every 1-2hrs

• Minimum daily follow-ups with rounds

• You will be responsible for knowing about all active toxicology patients when you’re on call

• If for some reason a patient goes from us to IL: Call the IL poison center 312-906-6020
Taking Call – Handoff

• **Collective responsibility to keep the Epic Patient List Handoff up to date every day after rounds.** Pay attention to when we need to see next, the summary and the anticipated date of discharge.

• Make sure this is up to date on Friday and update changes that happen over the weekend
ToxIC

ToxIC is a registry database for clinical data obtained from toxicology consults seen at the bedside

We fill out ToxIC forms on all our inpatient tox consults

Ask fellow for help completing. All ToxIC forms have to be reviewed by a fellow or attending
Poison Center updates

• We update the Missouri poison center on all cases that we follow on our service

• Medical students on service collectively responsible for reporting updates once daily after rounds

• Medical students: Remind us if there were any cases seen and cleared over the weekend that need reporting!
Poison Center

7980 Clayton Rd # 200, St. Louis, MO 63117

• Bring a photo ID to check-in
Research opportunities

• Consent forms for case reports (BMJ & BJC) – Consider for interesting or unusual poisonings

• Involvement in ongoing projects

• New projects (CQI, residency scholarly requirements)
  • Poison center research
  • ToxIC
Picture projects

• Short ~5min presentation, ~5-8 slides

• Picture-focused

• Covering interesting topics in toxicology not frequently seen in clinical practice
End of rotation presentation

• Longer ~20 minute presentation on a Toxicology topic
• Discuss your topic with a fellow prior to working on presentation
  • Good idea: Public health implications of arsenic ground water poisoning in Bangladesh
  • Bad idea: Arsenic poisoning (too broad)
• We’re always open to suggestions to improve the rotation