

Faculty In Charge Of Course:	Michelle Ruda, MD
Participating Faculty:	Simi Abraham, MD; Alison Shellman, PhD
Location:	Memorial Hermann Hospital and UTPB
Offered:	Blocks 1-11, 13
Max. # Students/Period:	1

Course Objective

This elective provides both inpatient and outpatient clinical experiences on a busy child maltreatment team, as well as opportunities to learn from trauma-informed mental health professionals and behavioral health specialists. Students will learn about various types of child injuries that represent abuse, as well as accidental injuries and non-traumatic conditions that may be confused for abuse. They will also participate in evaluations of sexually abused and neglected children. Students will learn about child maltreatment via hospital and clinic cases, as well as via directed reading. They will attend multidisciplinary team meetings (MTM) and journal club, and they will be invited to witness courtroom proceedings when these occur. Students will have the opportunity to observe trauma-focused mental health treatment provided to children and families in our outpatient clinic. Targeted behavioral health training occurs in an adjacent intensive outpatient program for children with complex medical and psychiatric comorbidities, often with concern for over-medicalization and abuse. Students will receive didactic instruction in behavioral health best practices. Students will also have opportunities to learn about provision and coordination of evidence-based assessment and wraparound care for patients and families with complex medical and psychosocial needs.

Material Covered:

- Recognition, treatment, sequelae, and prevention of child maltreatment (physical and sexual abuse, and various forms of neglect). The importance of comprehensive care, including provision of behavioral and psychosocial support for patients and families, will be stressed. Students will also learn about courtroom testimony in child abuse cases.

Overall Objectives:

By the end of this elective the student will be able to:

- Formulate a differential diagnosis for physical findings suspicious for maltreatment
- Accurately document historical information and physical findings in a suspected child maltreatment case
- Clearly articulate assessments and recommendations regarding an abused child to both medical and non-medical professionals
- Demonstrate an understanding of the prevalence of child maltreatment, its overlap with other pediatric subspecialties, and requirements for reporting to investigative authorities
- Communicate with families of child abuse victims in a caring and non-judgmental manner
- Appraise the literature related to child abuse
- Recognize the physical and mental health consequences of adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Explain how trauma-informed care can benefit patients
- Describe the biopsychosocial approach to conceptualizing and treating children with medical and psychiatric/behavioral comorbidities and concerns for over-medicalization and abuse
- Evidence a general understanding of empirically supported behavioral health practices in the evaluation and care of children with complex needs

Skill Objectives:

By the end of this elective, the student will be able to:

- Perform a thorough history and physical examination in cases of suspected maltreatment
- Become familiar with identifying traumatic injuries on child x-rays
- Become familiar with identifying traumatic injuries on child head CT scans
- Write complete, accurate, and clear documentation of medical findings
- Learn the importance of complete and accurate photodocumentation of physical findings in suspected child maltreatment cases
- Ask about trauma and adverse childhood exposures and respond appropriately
- Identify appropriate behavioral health recommendations to inform referrals

Activities Of Elective

Number Of New Patients/Student/Week: 10

Responsibilities Of Student For Assigned Patients:

Does history/physical:	Yes
Who critiques:	Faculty attending
Follows patients, with appropriate notes as needed:	Yes
Who supervises:	Ruda / Abraham / Shellman
Does student see ambulatory patients:	Yes

Procedures	Observe	Perform
Colposcopy/anoscopy	Yes	No

Scheduled Duties of Student:

Frequency of rounds on patients	Daily
Presents patients to preceptor or attending physician	Yes
Weekly schedule of required teaching sessions	Tuesday AM – Grand Rounds; Thursday AM – Didactics/Journal Club; Thursday AM – Multidisciplinary Team Rounds; Behavioral Health – Mon PM (last week)

Describe Optional Rounds And Activities, If Any:

Likely opportunity to accompany faculty to court

Other Required Activities:

Reading/review of current literature	Yes
Writing or presenting a paper	No

How Is Student Evaluated:

Students will be evaluated based on the attainment of the objectives listed above as demonstrated through patient care and presentations in the inpatient and outpatient settings.

Who Evaluates Students:

Faculty

Unique Features Of This Elective:

This elective introduces students to the field of child maltreatment and provides students the opportunity to provide patient care and management within this field. Students will interact with a varied patient population and will have the opportunity to observe multi-disciplinary meetings with CPS, law enforcement, etc. and to attend court proceedings. Students will also gain exposure to the provision of behavioral assessment and treatment for children and families with complex medical and psychosocial needs.