 RTS4022 CLINICAL STUDIES 2  

Leader: Ms Liz Parkinson  
Credit points: 3  
Prerequisites: RTS4000, RTS4010, NMS4021  
Co-requisites: RTS4020, RTS4012

Synopsis:

This is the second clinical practice unit and it will allow students to continue their orientation to the nuclear medicine workplace and nuclear medicine procedures. Further experience in routine imaging studies on adult patients exhibiting a range of clinical conditions and presentations. Introduction to SPECT and gated imaging. During this clinical rotation, students will gain the equivalent of one week dedicated experience in the hot laboratory/radiopharmaceutical dispensing.

Objectives:

Through means of appropriate rostering and clinical supervision students will gain further clinical experience in routine nuclear medicine imaging studies and radiopharmacy practices addressed in Nuclear Medicine and Radiopharmacy 1 and Physics and Instrumentation 1, and the professional skills addressed in Professional Practice 1.

In this clinical placement, students will build on experience gained in their first clinical practice unit and again place emphasis on performing studies of the respiratory system, skeletal system, gastro-intestinal system and renal system. Depending on the clinical load of the workplace, students are also encouraged to observe and gain some experience in SPECT and gated acquisitions. In the conduct of all studies, students are expected to continue to develop competency in:

1. The interpretation of nuclear medicine referrals;  
2. Patient identification, preparation, positioning and care during imaging procedures;   
3. The selection of image acquisition parameters for planar studies, including collimator selection and counting statistics;  
4. Image display, basic processing and image interpretation;  
5. Administrative work practices, including the management of resources.  
6. Maintaining a safe work environment, by practising the principles of radiation safety and protection, occupational health and safety, and infection control for patients, themselves and staff;  
7. Effective communication with clinical staff and patients (and their carers);  
8. The conduct nuclear medicine studies in a professional and ethical manner.

Students will also be expected to be able to communicate understanding of the role of gated and SPECT imaging. Students will also gain clinical experience in the hot laboratory / radiopharmaceutical preparation practices. This will involve observation of laboratory procedures including radionuclide/pharmaceutical/radiopharmaceutical calculations, storage, preparation, quality control, dispensing and administration. Students are expected to develop beginner level competency in simulated/supervised radiopharmaceutical calculations, preparation and dispensing, storage and waste management, and will be able to communicate an understanding of radiation safety practices in the laboratory.

Assessment:

Case reports related to examinations and patient interactions + Clinical skills assessment + Clinical studies professional portfolio

Off-campus attendance requirements:

Placement for 5 continuous weeks in a clinical nuclear medicine centre (4 weeks academic credit, 1 week professional credit).