**Pediatrics rotation in QHC**

The pediatrics rotation in the QHC was an excellent experience as I got to see different aspects of pediatrics medicine: ER, clinic and NICU. This rotation site allowed me to experience different aspects of pediatric medicine within the short period of 5 weeks. For example, I really enjoyed NICU week because that was very different from the rest of the rotation. ER pediatrics vs NICU was a totally different experience for me because the route of medication administration and dose were very different. I also enjoyed the ER experience as I got to do a few procedures: covid swab, IM injection, speculum exam, laceration repair, abscess drainage, wound care and venipuncture. However, the drawbacks of the QHC ER was that all the interesting and critical cases were transferred to the Cohen children hospital, which curtailed the critical aspect of learning. The clinic was amazing as I got to experience genetics, neurology, adolescence medicine, primary care and pulmonology within a week. I got to see cases like: marfan, autistic, fragile X, down syndrome, seizure and many other interesting cases. Overall, this rotation site was a great place to learn how to interact and manage a patient because every provider had a unique way of interactions.

In pediatrics rotation, I found the parents to be more challenging to interact than the patient. For the whole rotation, I felt like, every time I saw two patients at once rather than one because the patient and the parents required equal attention. Also, for the adolescence patient, it is challenging to separate the parents from the child to discuss confidential information. I learned that there are ways to communicate with the parents to make them understand it is important to discuss things with the patient alone. In the clinic, I learned if the parents are informed that the provider speaks privately to every single patient to discuss issues like smoking, alcohol and substance use. The key word of “every patient” tends to convince parents to provide private space. Overall, I learned effective communication and creating a trustworthy relationship is the key to dealing with these challenging situations.

I saw a lot of patients and everyone of them taught me a different way of interacting, collecting history and looking at the outcome of life. However, one patient caught my attention and taught me a life lesson that I plan to incorporate on my physical exam for the pediatric population. This patient was a four years old male, who presented with acute abdominal pain and mass in the suprapubic area. I saw this patient independently first and noticed the rigid abdomen that was severely tender to palpation. I did a comprehensive physical exam but I missed to check the genital area. Once I presented the patient to the attending and he asked, “ are both of the testes present in the scrotum”.The attending examined the patient, he found both testes were not palpable in the scrotum and parents are unaware if the testes ever fully descended. The patient was screaming in pain and even now the cry rings in my ear. I learned the importance of doing genital exam on the pediatrics patient especially in the wellness visit because the attending was worried about carcinoma on this four years old child. Since this was a critical case, we had to transfer the patient to Cohen children hospital which is the main drawback of QHC pediatrics because I could not follow up on the child’s condition and final diagnosis.

My experience was broadened by all the staff members in the pediatrics rotation as most of the Attending and Nurse practitioners were willing to teach in a respectful manner. Most of the nurses in the department were really amazing as they allowed me to practice procedures and learn by watching. I realize doing this rotation that in order to effectively care for the patient and create a comfortable working environment it is important to respect and communicate effectively with the nurse.I believe everyone around me appreciated my enthusiasm to learn, participate and become a provider for the patient.