### Overall Educational Goal of Elective

To provide RWJMS medical students with an ambulatory family practice experience in their third or fourth year complementary to their required Family Medicine clerkship.

### Objectives

I. **Patient care**
   - Increase student’s ability to evaluate and manage a variety of common medical problems in the ambulatory setting.
   - Refine students’ skills in history taking and performance of the physical exam.

II. **Medical knowledge**
   - Increase students understanding of the pathophysiologic basis for presentation of disease.
   - Increase ability to apply basic and clinical sciences in the out-patient setting.
   - Enhance student’s clinical reasoning abilities.

III. **Practice-based learning and improvement**
   - Promote commitment to life-long learning and develop strategies to continuously up-date personal clinical knowledge and skills.
   - Locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific and clinical studies relevant to patients’ health problems.
   - Provide an opportunity to explore student’s own strengths, personal goals and career options.

IV. **Interpersonal and communication skills**
   - Facilitate development of effective communication skills, both verbal and written, that results in appropriate information exchange with patients, patients’ families, and other health professionals.
   - Develop proficiency in patient education and counseling.

V. **Professionalism**
   - Promote respect, compassion, and integrity in interactions with patients and other health professionals.
   - Ensure accountability to patients, society, and the profession, and a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development.
VI. Systems-based Practice

- Increase student’s understanding of the demographics of the population being served and the available resources in the practice and the community.
- Increase student’s awareness of the complexity of providing longitudinal, comprehensive, and integrated care and increase student’s ability to assist patient in navigating the healthcare system.
- Increase student’s understanding of health care costs and appropriate utilization of resources.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF ACTIVITIES**

Students will spend the majority of their elective time at the outpatient office or clinic (approximately 6-10 hours per day) under the supervision of the family physician to whom they are assigned. Hospital rounds, home visits, nursing home care and other professional activities (department/hospital/clinic rounds or meetings) may be included. Night call may also be a part of this elective.

**METHOD OF STUDENT EVALUATION**

Students will be evaluated by the family physician faculty to whom they are assigned.

**ARE THERE ANY PREREQUISITES FOR THIS ELECTIVE?** No

**IS THIS ELECTIVE AVAILABLE TO THIRD YEAR MEDICAL STUDENTS AS WELL?** Yes