

Care Across the Life Cycle

Maternal-Child Exploration Project

During your 12-week CALC block, you will have one week devoted to exploring the maternal-child dyad of labor, delivery, and postpartum care. It will be an opportunity to follow a mother-child pairing through the entire process and have a unique view at what goes on behind the scenes and not just the physician/patient interface. Your point of entry at the beginning of the week will be the on-call Labor and Delivery obstetrician.

To help you maximize your experience that week, you will have a clinical checklist to help you navigate your way through the many aspects of this type of care. It will be your passport for the week, and you will be expected to turn this in once it is completed - please email to medicalstudents@gundersenhealth.org.

In addition, you will have time to explore a healthcare topic in depth that impacts both the mother and child. We encourage you to take advantage of the medical literature as well as meet with experts in this field such as obstetricians, pediatricians, lactation consultants, etc. to research this topic. This project will culminate in one of our Maternal-Child Symposiums where you will share what you have learned with your peers in a 15-20 minute presentation.

Such topics include, but are not limited to:

- Maternal opioid usage
- Maternal tobacco usage
- Maternal alcohol usage
- Any of the TORCH infections
- ABO incompatibility
- Advanced Maternal Age
- Maternal Obesity
- Gestational diabetes
- CMV—how to screen the mother (if possible) and effects on the child
- Maternal herpes infection
- Preterm delivery—effects on child's health and implications for maternal health in the future
- Postpartum depression
- Postpartum psychosis
- Maternal hypertension—when to treat, how to follow pregnancies, effects of therapy on pregnancy and fetus/child
- Preeclampsia—effects on fetus/newborn, implications for maternal health in future
- Thrombophilias—implications for pregnancies, which to treat and how, effects of anticoagulation on the fetus
- Health benefits of breastfeeding for mother and baby, effects on jaundice
- Exercise in pregnancy—risks and benefits for mother and baby.