

MITCHELLS PLAIN HOSPITAL

Email : Thomas.crede@westerncape.gov.za
Name : Thomas Crede
Tel : +27 - 21 3774391
Postal Address: Private Bag X 9
Mitchells Plain, 7789
Street address: 8 AZ Berman Drive
Mitchells Plain, 7785

Introduction to Mitchells Plain Hospital's Department of Medicine

The Department of Medicine admits between 500 and 700 patients a month into a total of about 140 medical beds. We see patients with a wide variety of illnesses with the predominant burden being related to infectious diseases, related to the extreme poverty in the community we service. In addition we also see the whole spectrum of non-communicable diseases. You will have the benefit of seeing many "third world" diseases, but with many "first world" interventions being available. The department is closely aligned to the University of Cape Town's Faculty of Health Sciences, and as such we host medical registrars (residents), as well as final year medical students in the department.

The Department of Medicine consists of 3 full-time Physicians, assisted by two part-time specialists. In addition we have several medical officers, community service officers and 6 interns working for us, in addition to the 3 medical registrars. Teams are structured to consist of a registrar/medical officer plus an intern, and during your time here you will be allocated to one team. The teams are on acute intake on a 1:5 basis, and on-call all acute medical admissions are managed by the on-call team. You will be expected to assist with the admission of new patients and the management of ward patients while you are with us. This will occur under the direct supervision of the admitting registrar, as well as the consultants involved in the care.

Consultants provide daily post-intake ward rounds, as well as follow-up rounds on ward patients. In addition you will be able to learn several procedures:

1. Lumbar punctures
2. Pleural taps and biopsies
3. Ascitic taps
4. Bone marrow biopsies
5. Lymph node aspiration biopsies
6. Lymph node excision biopsies

The hospital also offers CT scanning, ultra-sound services, plus upper and lower endoscopy, which you are welcome to witness.

The department also has several academic sessions, apart from bedside tutorials:

1. Academic meeting on a Wednesday afternoon
2. Regular antibiotic stewardship/infectious diseases ward rounds
3. Journal club on Thursday morning

Time spent in the Department of Medicine offers the opportunity to get exposure to a vast spectrum of illnesses not usually seen in a first world environment, while at the same time teaching cost effective medicine.