Expectations for year 6 attachment in Neurology

**The following should already be familiar at the START of the attachment**

ANATOMY

1. Essential structures & functions of the brain.

2. Structure & function of the spinal cord.

3. Cranial nerves.

4. Clinically relevant features of the skull & vertebral column.

PHYSIOLOGY

1. The corticobulbar and corticospinal pathways (upper motor neuron).

2. The lower motor neurone, neuromuscular junction and muscle.

3. The control of posture and reflex movements.

4. Physiological principles underlying blood supply and drainage from the brain and spinal cord.

5. The processes involved in CSF formation, circulatory pathways and reabsorption and its normal constituents.

PHARMACOLOGY

1. Treatments for common headaches (migraine and tension headache).

2. Anticonvulsants.

3. Dopaminergic drugs.

4. Drugs/toxins that affect the neuromuscular junction.

CLINICAL SCENARIOS / ILLNESS SCRIPTS RELEVANT TO THIS SPECIALITY

1. Characteristic upper motor neurone signs..

2. Characteristic lower motor neurone signs.

3. The main sensory modalities and how to test them.

4. The main symptoms and signs of muscle disease.

5. The concept of dementia and cognitive impairment.

6. The concept of psychogenic illness.

CLINICAL EXAMINATION SKILLS RELEVANT TO THIS SPECIALITY

1. Examination of the cranial nerves.

2. The motor examination of the limbs.

3. The sensory examination of the limbs.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS RELEVANT TO THIS SPECIALITY

1. Examination of cognitive function and speech.

2. Examination of gait.

**On this attachment experience will be gained in the following:**

PHARMACOLOGY

1. The treatment of patients with acute and chronic headache.

2. The treatment of patients with epilepsy and status epilepticus.

3. The treatment of patients with Parkinson’s disease.

4. The treatment of patients with multiple sclerosis.

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL SCENARIOS / ILLNESS SCRIPTS

1. Management of the dizzy patient.

2. Management of the unconscious patient.

3. Management of seizures and status epilepticus.

4. Management of acute stroke and its prevention.

5. Management of head injury.

6. Management of spinal cord & cauda equine compression

ADDITIONAL CLINICAL EXAMINATION SKILLS

1. Assessment of cognitive function (MMSE).

2. Assessment of movement disorders.

3. Assessment of activities of daily living (Barthel index).

ADDITIONAL SKILLS RELEVANT TO THIS SPECIALITY

1. Know the common investigations used for diseases of the nervous system and who undertake them, including:

a. Use of MR and CT imaging and angiography.

b. Use of relevant blood/urine investigations (especially in an emergency).

b. EEG

c. EMG.

d. Brain, muscle and nerve biopsy.

e. Genetic investigations.

2. Indications and contraindications for a lumbar puncture and typical CSF profiles for:

a. Acute bacterial meningitis

b. Viral meningitis.

c. Multiple sclerosis

d. Acute inflammatory demyelinating neuropathy (Guillain-Barre syndrome).