The chief objective of this elective is to improve the student’s approach to the diagnosis of common medical conditions and to ensure that students master an articulated systematic approach to common symptoms/problems that has been informed by detailed research.¹ That is, ensure students are competent in the most critical aspect of medicine...making an accurate diagnosis. The secondary goal of this project is to repeatedly model for students a compassionate, doctor patient encounter by repeatedly exposing students to attending/patient interactions on a daily basis. Finally, the third goal of this project is to encourage/require clinically-targeted self directed learning, which is an important priority for the LCME. The format of this elective requires students to immediately engage in clinically-oriented, self directed learning to research the appropriate diagnostic approaches to both symptoms and diseases that they encounter during urgent care visits.

¹ Research has been conducted at the University of Chicago since 2002 to prepare the textbook Symptom to Diagnosis, An Evidence Based Guide, 2005, 1010, 2015 McGraw Hill. Stern S, Cifu A, Altkorn D which covers approximately 30 symptoms and 300 diseases