

VA Cardiac Surgery

Institution: Nashville VA Medical Center

Duration: 4 weeks

Supervising Physician: Tarek Absi

Contact Information: tarek.absi@vanderbilt.edu

Year of Training: PGY-1

Educational Objectives:

VA Cardiac Surgery for the PGY-1 is a four-week rotation designed to introduce the resident to the principles of cardiac surgery management, specifically to patient assessment in the preoperative and postoperative periods.

Medical Knowledge

- ✓ Understand the physiology of cardiac disease necessitating surgical intervention.
- ✓ Understand the physiology of vasopressors utilized in the management of the postoperative cardiac patient.
- ✓ Understand the principles of electrocardiography.
- ✓ Be able to identify pertinent cardiac anatomy on preoperative cardiac imaging and understand the physiology necessitating operative intervention.

Patient care and Procedural Skills

- ✓ Be able to manage and triage the in-patient cardiac surgery patient list, appropriately assessing and presenting patients on morning rounds.
- ✓ Effectively enter orders, call consults, and communicate with ancillary staff in order to provide excellent patient care to cardiac surgery patients.
- ✓ Participate in all wound care needs of cardiac surgery patients.
- ✓ Provide effective postoperative care and manage common postoperative conditions including oliguria and pain management.
- ✓ Recognize arrhythmias and initiate appropriate first-line care.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- ✓ Write an accurate, detailed, and legible preoperative assessment and note as well as postoperative notes.
- ✓ Recognize patterns of postoperative care and look for means of improvement.
- ✓ Utilize assigned journal articles as well as available textbook chapters and information technology (including PubMed search and literature review) to improve patient care.
- ✓ Participate in cardiac surgery educational conferences.
- ✓ Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- ✓ The resident should ensure that the nurse practitioner and attending are aware of the progress of all patients on the service.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with referring and consulting physicians, including residents.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with patients and appropriate members with their families about identified disease processes (including complications), the expected courses, operative findings, and operative procedures.
- ✓ The resident should ensure that clear, concise, accurate, and timely medical records are maintained on all patients.

Professionalism

- ✓ Demonstrate compassion, integrity, and respect for others.
- ✓ Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, and sexual orientation.
- ✓ Demonstrate respect for patient privacy and autonomy.
- ✓ Remain honest with all individuals at all times in conveying issues of patient care.
- ✓ Respond to the needs of the patient above one's own needs and desires.
- ✓ Demonstrate a commitment to the continuity of patient care by carrying out professional responsibilities or through assuring that those responsibilities are fully and accurately conveyed others acting in his/her stead.
- ✓ Understand the institutional policy on duty hours and remain compliant with all duty hour regulations. Residents must enter the number of hours spent in the hospital at least weekly.
- ✓ Be properly and professionally attired at all times while engaged in patient care.
- ✓ Reliably be present in prearranged places at prearranged times except when actively engaged in the treatment of a medical or surgical emergency. The resident must notify the appropriate supervisor if he or she will be unable to be present.
- ✓ Remain compliant with all required training designated by the institution.

Systems-based practice

- ✓ The resident should be able to assess the risks and benefits of all options for treating patients with surgical illness.
- ✓ The resident should be able to understand the basics of coding in clinic and accurately reflect this in the encounter information.
- ✓ The resident should recognize the challenges faced by providing care in the federal system.
- ✓ The resident should recognize and understand areas for potential quality improvement and how to initiate the QI process.

Description of Clinical Experiences:

Specific daily responsibilities of the PGY-1 Resident include:

- Pre-round and round on all inpatients.
- Respond promptly and appropriately to pages from the PACU, floor nurses, and others.
- Complete discharge summaries in a timely fashion.
- Complete preoperative risk assessment notes for all ASA III or greater patients with planned operations.
- Evaluate and present all new consults.

Description of Didactic Experiences:

The resident should attend all educational conferences as directed as well as grand rounds (7 am) and resident teaching conference (8 am) at Vanderbilt.

Specific cardiac surgery conferences:

- Cardiac Surgery Conference, Monday (7 am) at Vanderbilt
- Heart Conference, Wednesday (2 pm) at Vanderbilt

VA Cardiac Surgery Clinic is Friday.

Evaluation Process:

Faculty and senior residents will evaluate the performance of each resident using these goals and objectives. Each resident on the service will evaluate the rotation, the service, faculty and any senior residents also on the rotation.

Other Important Rotation Information:

