

VA General Surgery

Institution: Nashville VA Medical Center

Duration: 4 weeks

Supervising Physician: Kyla Terhune

Contact Information: 615-835-8817

Year of Training: PGY-1

Educational Objectives:

VA General Surgery for the PGY-1 is a four-week rotation designed to give you a taste of bread and butter surgery that spans both elective and emergent practices.

Medical Knowledge

General Surgery knowledge should include understanding the basics in examination and evaluation of patients with a broad spectrum of complaints and disorders encompassing General Surgery.

Patient Care Skills

This is the beginning of acquisition of the basic skills of operative technique. PGY-1 residents need to be assisting in and then acquiring skills in basic management of preoperative and postoperative conditions, with the support of the senior residents. They should begin to understand the basic surgical anatomy of general surgery and should be able to perform a complete physical exam to be presented reliably and succinctly on rounds and with consults. In the operating room, they should learn to “run the camera” well for laparoscopic procedures and should become adept at wound closure techniques including deep dermal and epidermal closures. They should also start to assist for common open general surgery procedures.

Medical Knowledge & Patient Care Milestones

- ✓ Manages oliguria systematically
- ✓ Understands perioperative risk assessment
- ✓ Understands inguinal anatomy clearly
- ✓ Closes inguinal incision independently
- ✓ Can reliably operate the laparoscopic camera for basic cases
- ✓ Debrides wounds independently
- ✓ Demonstrates systematic evaluation of an abdominal CT scan
- ✓ Demonstrates knowledge of assessing for basic surgical presentations such as appendicitis and cholecystitis
- ✓ Ties a 2-handed square knot

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents must demonstrate the ability to investigate and evaluate their care of patients, to appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and to continuously improve patient care based on constant self-evaluation and life-long learning. Residents are expected to develop skills and habits to be able to meet the following goals:

- ✓ Write an accurate, detailed, and legible preoperative assessment and counseling note on all patients for which he/she serves as surgeon of record.
- ✓ Utilize assigned journal articles as well as available textbook chapters and information technology (including PubMed search and literature review)
- ✓ Participate in the education of patients, families, students, residents, and other health professionals.
- ✓ Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- ✓ The resident should ensure that the senior resident and attending are aware of the progress of all patients on the service.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with nurses and other Hospital employees.
- ✓ 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.
- ✓ The resident should be able to clearly and accurately teach medical students and junior residents about the procedures performed on this rotation when qualified to do so by hospital and program policy.

Professionalism

Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities and an adherence to ethical principles. Residents must:

- ✓ 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.
- ✓ Maintain high standards of ethical behavior in all professional activities.
- ✓ Demonstrate a commitment to the continuity of patient care to 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.
- ✓ At all times treat patients, families, and all members of the healthcare team with respect.
- ✓ 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 and accurately reflect visits in the encounter information.
- ✓ The resident should recognize the challenges faced by providing care in the federal system.
- ✓

Description of Clinical Experiences:

Specific daily responsibilities of the PGY-1 Resident include:

Pre-rounding and rounding on all inpatients.
 Responding promptly and appropriate to pages from the PACU, floor nurses, and others.
 Complete discharge summaries in a timely fashion.
 Preoperative risk assessment notes for all ASA III or greater patients with planned operations.
 Initial consult evaluations and presentations for all new consults.

Description of Didactic Experiences:

Tuesday:
 Complex Case Conference, Case Review and Morbidity/Mortality Conference (7 am)
 General Surgery Clinic (8 am)

Wednesday:
 Bonus Conference, Vanderbilt (7:30 am)

Thursday:
 Tumor Board (3:00 pm)

Friday:
Grand Rounds (7:00 am)
Resident Teaching Conference (8:00 am)

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: