

# VA General Surgery

**Institution:** Nashville VA Medical Center

**Duration:** 6 weeks

**Supervising Physician:** Kyla Terhune

**Contact Information:** 615-835-8817

**Year of Training:** PGY-3

## **Educational Objectives:**

The PGY-3 experience at the VA is designed to give the resident practice in managing an out-patient list, elective schedule, as well as providing urgent and emergent surgical care as needed. The PGY-3 works very closely with the PGY-5 resident on service, ensuring that our veterans receive top surgical care. The PGY-3 will be expected to take chief call opposite the PGY-5. The PGY-3 should notify the PGY-5 or the attending surgeon of all consultations, new admissions, or changes in patient status. The PGY-3 is ultimately responsible, with the PGY-5 for the operative schedule.

### **Practice-based Learning & Improvement:**

- ✓ Begin to appreciate the controversies and evolving alternatives of general surgery therapy
- ✓ Demonstrate basic understanding of how to access the literature to help in clinical decision making
- ✓ Begin to initiate and complete the work-up of general surgery basic problems
- ✓ Have a basic understanding of the anatomy related to all general surgical cases
- ✓ Begin to take over the majority of postoperative patient care
- ✓ Regularly assist on all major general surgery cases with the PGY-5 resident and serve as teaching resident on basic cases to the PGY-1 resident.

### **Patient Care and Procedural Skills:**

- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of preoperative preparation
- ✓ Demonstrate clearly improved operative skills over the course of the rotation, with a focus on exposure and anatomy.
- ✓ Regularly assist on all major general surgery cases with the PGY-5 resident and serve as teaching resident on basic cases to the PGY-1 resident.
- ✓ Develop into more of an operator rather than a first assistant
- ✓ The general surgical PGY-III should begin performing recurrent hernia repairs, open and laparoscopic biliary procedures, breast procedures, endocrine procedures, and colon resections

### **Medical Knowledge:**

- ✓ Demonstrate understanding of the mechanism and physiology of all common general surgery patient presentations.
- ✓ Systematically evaluate abdominal CTs.
- ✓ Provide good decision-making in the outpatient clinic and help manage the outpatient list.
- ✓ Succinctly present all patients and their plans for both complex case conference and tumor board and demonstrate understanding of the disease processes and the implications of or need for surgical intervention.

### **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 from both senior residents, staff, and attendings into daily practice.

### **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

- ✓ The resident should ensure that the attending is 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 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 into the tracking system within 24 hours of duty.
- ✓ 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 have a basic understanding of E&M coding, CPT codes, and the use of these within the VA system.
- ✓ The resident should be able to determine the benefit of additional treatment by other services such as plastic surgery, interventional radiology, and orthopedics.
- ✓ The resident should be able to determine and convey to appropriate individuals the instruments and other materials necessary for all procedures.

**Description of Clinical Experiences:**

Specific daily responsibilities of the PGY-3 Resident include:

- ✓ Function at the level of a senior resident, guiding junior residents on service
- ✓ Maintaining the operative schedule and ensuring accurate communication with the OR staff so as to provide timely service to the veterans
- ✓ Prepare complex case conference, operative case review, and tumor board.
- ✓ Take chief-level call on alternate weekends with the PGY-5, reporting all consults and changes in patient progress directly to the attending

**Description of Didactic Experiences:**

Attend all scheduled education and conferences while on rotation.

Tuesday: 7 am general surgery conference, 8 am general surgery clinic  
 Wednesday: 7:30 bonus conference (Vanderbilt)

Friday: 7 am grand rounds (Vanderbilt), 8 am resident teaching conference (Vanderbilt)

**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:**