

VA General Surgery

Institution: Nashville VA Medical Center

Duration: 8 weeks

Supervising Physician: Kyla Terhune

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Year of Training: PGY-5

Educational Objectives:

The rotation on VA General Surgery for the PGY-5 Resident is designed as a “transition to practice” rotation. In consultation with attending surgeons on the general surgery service and the nursing staff, the PGY-5 is expected to manage both the inpatient and outpatient general surgery needs of the veteran population during this rotation and ensure safe handover to the following team.

Patient Care and Procedural Skills:

- ✓ Demonstrated clearly improved operative skills throughout the rotation, with a focus on pre-operative planning, operative exposure, operative decision making, and excellent technical skills.
- ✓ Perform as the operating surgeon for major cases and as a teaching assistant to junior residents for minor cases.
- ✓ The PGY-5 should evaluate all consults and determine whether operative care or medical care is necessary.
- ✓ The PGY-5 is responsible for guiding the preoperative assessment and workup of all patients with general surgery needs.
- ✓ The PGY-5 is responsible for overall management of both the in-patient and out-patient lists, triaging the operating room schedule as necessary.
- ✓ The PGY-5 is responsible for overseeing postoperative care for all patients on the in-patient service.

Medical Knowledge:

- ✓ Must have advanced knowledge of the presentation of core diseases and conditions of the abdomen and alimentary tract as according to the SCORE Curriculum.
- ✓ Must demonstrate the medical understanding in order to recognize the need for complex case conference discussion and facilitate this discussion.
- ✓ Must demonstrate the understanding of basic surgical oncology principles in order to facilitate tumor board discussion and management of veterans with cancer.

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

- ✓ 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)
- ✓ Incorporate formative evaluation feedback into daily practice.
- ✓ Begin to appreciate the controversies and evolving alternatives of general surgery therapy
- ✓ Present patients at morbidity and mortality conference and seek improvement opportunities.
- ✓ Follow the progress of patients on service and seek improvement opportunities.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

- ✓ The resident should ensure that the attending is aware of the progress of all patients on the service.
- ✓ Establish expectations, roles, and responsibilities for junior residents, clerkship students and senior level students rotating on service.
- ✓ Provide routine educational activities to junior residents and students while on service (such as teaching on rounds, chalk-talks, knot-tying, etc.)

- ✓ Provide timely feedback and assessments to the program director, clerkship director and medical student supervisor as requested.
- ✓ The resident should clearly, accurately, and respectfully communicate with nurses, referring and consulting physicians, including residents, patients and appropriate members of their families.
- ✓ The resident should ensure that clear, concise, accurate, and timely medical records are maintained on all patients.

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.
- ✓ 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..
- ✓ 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 summarize the financial costs, potential complications, and long-term expectations for planned procedures.
- ✓ The resident should recognize the differences between the three hospital systems in which he or she will participate: federal, university, and private.
- ✓ 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-5 Resident include:

- ✓ Overseeing the preoperative, operative and postoperative care of all in-patients with general surgery needs.
- ✓ Maintaining the outpatient service, together with the PGY-3 and available ancillary staff (e.g. registered nurse on service), ensuring that they receive excellent clinical care.
- ✓ Managing the team of junior residents in a mature, responsible manner, and role-modeling to them exemplary patient care and concern.

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: