

GENERAL SURGERY GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

General Surgery PGY-1 (GenSurg):

The Goals and Objectives for this rotation are adapted from the “Prerequisites for Graduate Surgical Education - A Guide for Medical Students and PGY1 Surgical Residents” published by the American College of Surgeons. While not an absolute requirement at present due to cost issues, the residents are encouraged to sit for and pass part III of the USMLE as soon as practical. Additionally, PGY-1 residents are required to read the Wieders’s Urology Handbook during the year.

General Goals

Develop understanding of:

- Evaluation and management skills relevant to surgical conditions.
- The need for accurate medical documentation.
- Pathophysiology of common surgical conditions.
- The unique nature of preoperative evaluations.
- The natural history of surgical problems, their outcomes and the relevance to post-operative care both short- and long-term.
- Develop experience necessary to recognize and triage acutely ill or injured patients.

General Objectives:

- Demonstrate knowledge of obtaining patient history utilizing document review and interviewing skills both in the emergent and general care settings.
- Demonstrate ability to perform general physical examination skills both in the emergent and general care settings.
- Demonstrate accurate documentation of encounters including chief complaint, history of present illness, past medical and surgical history, allergy status, medication usage, general and area specific review of systems, family & social history, all components of the physical examination, laboratory & imaging review, discussion of the patient’s differential diagnosis list, and development of an individualized evaluation/treatment plan.
- Demonstrate preoperative notes that consider the comorbid variable for individual patients and document surgical risk assessment.
- Demonstrate an understanding of cardiac, pulmonary and other specific system evaluations and their judicious use in the preoperative setting.
- Demonstrate accurate and concise in-patient progress notes.
- Demonstrate accurate and timely recording of procedure and operative notes based upon local institutional and TJC guidelines
- Demonstrate accurate, concise and timely completion of discharge summaries.
- Demonstrate a high-level understanding of potential complications and post-operative natural history of surgical patients through the treatment plans outlined in the discharge summaries.
- Demonstrate concise and cost-effective utilization during the radiological evaluation of acutely ill patients.

Mechanism of learning: Reading, mentoring by upper level residents/faculty, conferences, on-rotation experience.

Competency: Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal & Communication Skills

Documentation: Faculty evaluations, observed patient encounters, Operative performance rating forms, staff & peer 360 evaluations, patient evaluations, ABSITE scores.

Emergent and Inpatient Care Goals:

- Understand routine and intensive care management of surgical patients
- Understand the need to consider patient safety in all aspects of daily patient activities.
- Understand the principles of practicing cost-effective medicine.

Emergent and Inpatient Care Objectives:

- Demonstrate a clear understanding of surgical principles related to:
 - Bowel preparation
 - Antimicrobial prophylaxis and therapy
 - Antifungal prophylaxis and therapy
 - Pain management
 - Wound care
 - Enteral nutrition
 - Parenteral nutrition
 - Renal dysfunction dose adjustments
 - Postoperative diet advancement
 - Postoperative fever assessment
 - Postoperative nausea assessment
 - Postoperative hypoxia assessment
 - Postoperative hypotension assessment
 - Fluid / electrolyte management
 - Acid / base management
 - Blood product utilization / transfusion
 - Intravenous line/injection
 - Intramuscular injection
 - Foley catheter placement
 - Removal/placement of drains
 - Removal/placement of skin staples
 - Nasogastric tube placement
 - Reducing use of unnecessary therapies and testing/Cost containment
- Demonstrate knowledge and develop experience with the prophylactic measures utilized to prevent complications such as:
 - Wound infections
 - Atelectasis
 - Acute GI bleed
 - Deep venous thrombosis
 - Pulmonary embolus
 - Delirium tremens

- Bacterial endocarditis.
- Recognize abnormalities in basic radiologic and laboratory tests and learn normal values and ranges.
- Interpret basic EKG findings.
- Know and apply the specific recommendations for tetanus immunization (active and passive).
- Know the clinical manifestations of rabies in carrier and patient, and agents available to prevent development of the disease.

Mechanism of learning: Reading, mentoring by upper level residents/faculty, conferences, on rotation experience.

Competency: Medical Knowledge, Patient Care, Technical Skill, Interpersonal & communication skills

Documentation: Faculty evaluations, observed patient encounters, Operative performance rating forms, staff & peer 360 evaluations, patient evaluations

General Surgery Goals:

- Develop communication skills with patients and family that will allow a meaningful informed consent process to occur for surgical procedures.
- Develop familiarity with the operating room environment, the component staff and principles of sterility and prevention of infection.
- Develop an awareness of patient and staff safety in the operating room environment.
- Develop an understanding of the various approaches to surgical intervention including the type of instrumentation and special anesthetic requirements for each.

General Surgery Objectives:

- Demonstrate through observed patient interactions, the complete process of informed consent including a detailed discussion of the indications for surgery; the possible alternatives; the risks, benefits & possible long-term consequences of the surgery or other treatment regimen; and the likely outcome.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding and be able to articulate the various methods and conditions necessary to prevent the spread of environmental pathogens including contact, airborne and blood-borne pathogens.
- Demonstrate a clear understanding and be able to articulate the mechanisms of preventing patient & staff injury and adverse events including:
 - Electrical or laser injury
 - Instrument and sponge count issues
 - Positioning injuries, Falls
 - Correct patient and laterality issues
 - Documentation errors
- Demonstrate knowledge of:
 - Surgical gown and glove technique
 - Sterile surgical technique
 - Technique for draping surgical site
 - Various patient positioning devices & techniques and their safe use.
 - General surgical instruments and retractors and their safe use.

- Electrocautery devices and their safe use.
- Types of lasers and their safe use.
- Basic laparoscopic instrumentation and safe use.
- Demonstrate an ability to work both in a 3-dimensional (open) and 2-dimensional (most laparoscopic) surgical arena.
- Demonstrate facile handling of surgical instrumentation and:
 - One-hand knot tying
 - Two-hand knot tying
 - Instrument knot tying
 - Surgeons knot
 - Running closure
 - Interrupted closure
 - Mattress closure
 - Purse-string closure
- Demonstrate basic surgical technique:
 - Learn basic techniques of dissection and handling of tissues.
 - Under supervision:
 - Excise benign lesions of skin and subcutaneous tissues.
 - Perform lymph node biopsy.
 - Remove superficial foreign bodies.
 - Incise and drain an abscess.
 - Repair simple lacerations.
 - Repair umbilical and type I and II inguinal hernias.
 - Perform appendectomy.
 - Perform extensive debridement with supervision

Mechanism of learning: Reading, mentoring by upper level residents/faculty, conferences, on rotation experience, surgical skills simulation lab.

Competency: Patient Care, Medical Knowledge, Interpersonal & Communication Skills, Technical skills.

Documentation: Faculty evaluations, observed patient encounters, operative performance rating forms, staff & peer 360 evaluations, patient evaluations.
