

## **Emergency Medicine (Elective)**

Length: 4 weeks during PGY-1 year  
Location: The Queen's Medical Center  
Primary Supervisor: Cathy Oliver, MD, and Andrew Schwartz, M.D.  
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### **GOAL**

To prepare Preliminary Surgery Residents for their chosen categorical residency by providing them with a clinical experience in Emergency Medicine. The rotation will provide Residents with the opportunity to gain the knowledge, skills, behaviors and attitudes needed to care for patients in an emergency room.

### **OBJECTIVES**

#### **Patient Care**

Residents must provide *patient care* that is compassionate, appropriate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to gather an accurate and focused patient history and physical examination that is appropriate to the clinical situation;
- The ability to gather accurate and essential information from other sources including medical records and diagnostic/therapeutic procedures;
- The ability to integrate available clinical data to identify, assess and prioritize patient problems; and generate an appropriate differential diagnosis;
- The ability to make informed decisions about diagnostic and therapeutic interventions based on patient information and preferences, up-to-date scientific evidence, and clinical judgment;
- The ability to develop, negotiate and implement effective patient management plans under supervision;
- The consistent application of universal precautions;
- The ability to diagnose and treat common emergencies including
  - Cardiovascular emergencies
  - Environmental and toxicological emergencies

- Gastrointestinal emergencies
  - Head and neck emergencies
  - Metabolic emergencies
  - Musculoskeletal emergencies
  - Neurologic emergencies
  - Respiratory and intra-thoracic emergencies
  - Miscellaneous emergencies such as anaphylaxis and sepsis
- The ability to diagnose and treat common hematologic disorders;
  - The ability to diagnose and treat common urologic problems;
  - The ability to diagnose and manage common psychiatric problems in the emergency department;
  - The ability to perform basic emergent medical procedures competently;
  - The judicious and appropriate use of consultants in the emergency setting; and,
  - Competence in the principles and use of life support modalities.

### **Medical Knowledge**

Residents must demonstrate *medical knowledge* about established and evolving biomedical, clinical, and epidemiological and social-behavioral sciences, as well as the application of this knowledge to patient care. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to apply an open-minded, analytical approach to acquiring new knowledge;
- Knowledge of common social problems presenting to the emergency department;
- Knowledge of the common substances of abuse;
- The ability to access and critically evaluate current medical information and scientific evidence relevant to their patients and emergency medicine;
- The ability to develop clinically applicable knowledge of the basic and clinical sciences that underlie the practice of emergency medicine; and
- The ability to apply an evidence-based approach to clinical problem-solving, clinical decision-making, and critical thinking in the emergency department.

## **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. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to enhance their knowledge, skills, attitudes and processes of care in emergency medicine;
- The ability to develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors and use errors to improve the system or processes of care in emergency medicine;
- The habits and attitudes necessary to support independent, life-long, self-directed learning; and
- The ability to facilitate the learning of peers, students and other health care professionals.

## **Interpersonal and Communication Skills**

Residents must demonstrate *interpersonal and communication skills* that result in effective exchange of information and collaboration with patients, their families, and other health professionals. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The interpersonal skills needed to work effectively with other personnel in the emergency department setting;
- The interpersonal skills necessary to manage common acute psychosocial problems in the emergency department;
- The ability to use effective listening, nonverbal, questioning, and narrative skills to communicate with patients and families;
- The ability to work effectively with others as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group;
- The ability to maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records; and
- The ability to communicate pertinent medical information in a complete and concise manner to other medical professionals.

## **Professionalism**

Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities; and an adherence to ethical principles. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The qualities of compassion, integrity and respect for others;
- Responsiveness to patient needs that supersedes self-interest;
- Respect for patient privacy and autonomy;
- Accountability to patients, society and the profession;
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to a diverse patient population, including but not limited to diversity in gender, age, culture, race, religion, disabilities, socioeconomic status and sexual orientation;
- The ability to adhere to principles of confidentiality, scientific/academic integrity, and informed consent; and
- Participation in all required educational activities.

## **Systems-Based Practice**

Residents must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of health care, as well as the ability to call effectively on other resources in the system to provide optimal health care. At the completion of their Emergency Medicine rotation, Residents will be able to demonstrate:

- The ability to work effectively in the emergency department;
- Coordination of patient care within the emergency department and the larger health care system;
- Knowledge of the principles of pre-hospital triage.
- Knowledge of the principles of the emergency medical services system including arranging follow-up, expeditious transfer and triage.
- The ability to apply evidence-based, cost-conscious strategies to diagnosis and disease management in the emergency department.
- The ability to collaborate with other members of the health care team to assist patients in dealing effectively with complex systems and to improve systematic processes of care.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Residents will meet their educational objectives through direct patient care, assigned reading, educational sessions and independent learning. They will be assigned work in an emergency room with attending physicians who will oversee their activities. They will be offered equivalent educational opportunities as other PGY-1 residents rotating in the emergency room. In addition, they will be given a set of journal and textbook reprints pertinent to Emergency Medicine and will complete a post test based on the readings.

## **EVALUATION AND ASSESSMENT**

Resident Assessment: Residents will receive formal written evaluation utilizing the Global Resident Competency Evaluation form that includes assessment of their patient care, medical knowledge, practice-based learning and improvement, interpersonal and communication skills, professionalism and systems-based practice. This evaluation will be completed by the emergency room site coordinator(s), with input from other attending physicians. Additionally, they are counseled and provided with feedback on a timely basis.

Program Evaluation: Residents are required to complete a confidential written evaluation of their Emergency Medicine experience. They also have the opportunity to evaluate their attending physicians confidentially. At the end of the year, Residents complete a required confidential questionnaire rating the educational value, conferences, attendings, patients, workload, and “scut work” of the Emergency Medicine rotation. Residents are encouraged to give the Program feedback about their various rotation experiences during their evaluation reviews with the Program Director.