

Point of Care Ultrasound (POCUS) – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient medical units, IMC, CCU, outpatient settings as applicable
- **Duration:** 4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with focused training in the principles and clinical application of point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) to enhance bedside diagnosis, clinical decision-making, and patient care. The experience emphasizes safe and effective image acquisition, interpretation of normal and abnormal findings, appropriate clinical integration of ultrasound data, informed consent, and participation in quality assurance processes under faculty supervision.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop progressive competence in performing and interpreting core POCUS examinations and appropriately incorporating ultrasound findings into clinical reasoning while maintaining patient safety and professionalism.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Perform focused POCUS examinations using proper probe selection, positioning, and image optimization
- Acquire high-quality images for core POCUS applications, including cardiac, pulmonary, abdominal, and vascular studies
- Differentiate normal from abnormal ultrasound findings in commonly encountered clinical scenarios
- Incorporate POCUS findings into clinical assessment while recognizing the limitations of educational ultrasound examinations

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the physical principles of ultrasound and common artifacts
- Describe indications, limitations, and clinical utility of POCUS across inpatient and outpatient settings
- Interpret ultrasound findings in the context of patient presentation and other diagnostic data

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Submit acquired POCUS images for quality assurance review and incorporate faculty feedback to improve performance
- Reflect on image quality and diagnostic accuracy to identify areas for improvement
- Utilize evidence-based educational resources to advance POCUS knowledge and skills

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Obtain informed consent for educational POCUS examinations and explain the purpose and limitations to patients

- Communicate POCUS findings appropriately with supervising faculty and clinical teams
- Participate effectively in bedside teaching and interdisciplinary discussions

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability by completing required educational activities, image submissions, and conferences
- Maintain patient privacy, confidentiality, and respectful behavior during bedside examinations
- Recognize personal limitations and seek supervision when interpreting ultrasound findings

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Apply POCUS as an adjunct to physical examination in a cost-conscious, high-value manner
- Recognize when confirmatory diagnostic imaging or specialty consultation is required
- Participate in quality assurance processes to support safe integration of POCUS into clinical care

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Identify indications for basic POCUS examinations and acquire images under direct supervision
- Recognize normal anatomy and common artifacts

PGY-2:

- Perform core POCUS studies with indirect supervision and interpret common normal and abnormal findings
- Integrate ultrasound findings into clinical assessment with faculty guidance

PGY-3:

- Independently perform and interpret core POCUS examinations with attending oversight
- Teach basic image acquisition skills and assist junior learners during supervised scanning sessions

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Faculty- and resident-led POCUS rounds and workshops
- Supervised bedside scanning and image acquisition
- Image review and quality assurance sessions
- Independent completion of approved POCUS educational modules

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation of image acquisition and interpretation
- Review of submitted ultrasound images and participation in quality assurance processes
- End-of-rotation faculty evaluation mapped to applicable ACGME milestones

Residents receive ongoing formative feedback and summative feedback at the conclusion of the rotation.

Supervision

Faculty supervision is provided in accordance with ACGME supervision guidelines and is based on resident demonstrated competence, PGY level, and patient acuity.