

Inpatient Cardiology Service – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient Cardiology Service (medical floor-level cardiology admissions)
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective (Mostly during PGY2 and PGY3)

Rotation Overview

This elective rotation provides residents with immersive experience functioning as the primary inpatient team for patients admitted with acute and chronic cardiovascular conditions. Unlike the consult-based Cardiology rotation, residents on the Inpatient Cardiology Service assume primary responsibility for daily clinical decision-making, order entry, care coordination, and discharge planning under the supervision of cardiology attendings and fellows. The rotation emphasizes guideline-directed management, diagnostic interpretation, interdisciplinary collaboration, and progressive autonomy in the care of hospitalized cardiac patients.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to progressively demonstrate the knowledge, clinical skills, efficiency, and leadership required to independently manage hospitalized patients with primary cardiac diagnoses while delivering evidence-based, high-value, and patient-centered care.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Serve as the primary managing team for patients admitted with cardiovascular conditions, including acute decompensated heart failure, atrial fibrillation and other arrhythmias, chest pain, and stable acute coronary syndromes
- Perform daily clinical assessments and formulate prioritized diagnostic and therapeutic plans for hospitalized cardiology patients
- Manage volume status using diuretics and other therapies, adjusting treatment based on clinical response and laboratory data
- Initiate and titrate guideline-directed medical therapy for heart failure and other chronic cardiovascular conditions under appropriate supervision
- Coordinate discharge planning, medication reconciliation, and follow-up care for cardiology patients

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology and inpatient management of common cardiovascular conditions requiring hospitalization
- Interpret electrocardiograms, cardiac biomarkers, telemetry data, and relevant imaging studies
- Differentiate indications for invasive and noninvasive cardiac testing and procedures
- Apply evidence-based guidelines to the inpatient management of heart failure, arrhythmias, ischemic heart disease, and post-procedural care

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal learning gaps related to inpatient cardiovascular management and develop targeted learning goals
- Incorporate current cardiology guidelines and evidence-based literature into daily patient care decisions
- Reflect on patient outcomes and efficiency of care to improve future inpatient practice

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate clearly and effectively with patients and families regarding diagnoses, treatment plans, and anticipated clinical course
- Present cardiology patients succinctly during rounds and handoffs
- Collaborate effectively with cardiology fellows, attendings, nursing, pharmacy, case management, electrophysiology, and heart failure teams

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, reliability, and respect while managing a primary inpatient cardiology service
- Recognize personal limitations and seek timely supervision and consultation
- Maintain ethical standards and patient confidentiality in complex clinical situations

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize inpatient cardiology resources and diagnostic testing appropriately to deliver high-value care
- Coordinate care transitions between inpatient cardiology, procedural services, step-down units, and outpatient cardiology follow-up
- Identify appropriate indications for subspecialty consultation, including electrophysiology and advanced heart failure services

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-2:

- Manage assigned cardiology patients as the primary team with indirect supervision
- Develop daily assessment and plans, enter orders, and coordinate care transitions
- Interpret ECGs, telemetry, and cardiac biomarkers with increasing independence

PGY-3:

- Independently manage complex inpatient cardiology patients with attending oversight
- Lead daily rounds and care coordination for the cardiology service
- Model efficient, patient-centered decision-making and leadership for junior learners

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Daily inpatient cardiology rounds with attending cardiologist and cardiology fellow
- Active participation in admissions, daily management, and discharge planning
- ECG and telemetry interpretation during rounds
- Case-based discussions emphasizing guideline-directed medical therapy and high-value care
- Review of cardiac catheterization reports, echocardiography, and post-procedural management

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty and fellow observation
- Ongoing formative feedback during rounds
- End-of-rotation faculty evaluation
- Milestone-based assessment tools

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.