

Emergency Medicine – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Emergency Department
- **Duration:** 4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Required

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with exposure to the evaluation and management of patients presenting with undifferentiated complaints across a wide range of acuity levels. Emphasis is placed on rapid assessment, stabilization, diagnostic reasoning, patient safety, interprofessional communication, and appropriate disposition of patients in the emergency department setting.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to progressively develop the clinical skills, medical knowledge, and professional behaviors required to provide safe, timely, and effective care to patients with acute medical conditions while functioning as an integral member of the emergency department team.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Perform timely and focused assessments of patients presenting with undifferentiated complaints
- Prioritize emergent, urgent, and non-urgent conditions based on history, physical examination, and initial data
- Formulate differential diagnoses and initiate appropriate diagnostic and therapeutic interventions for common emergency presentations
- Recognize patient safety risks and implement strategies to prevent complications during evaluation and management

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of common emergency conditions, including acute coronary syndromes, stroke, sepsis, respiratory failure, and metabolic emergencies
- Interpret laboratory studies, imaging, and electrocardiograms commonly used in emergency care
- Apply evidence-based guidelines and best practices to the management of acute medical conditions

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Reflect on clinical performance and seek feedback from supervising physicians and interdisciplinary team members
- Identify personal knowledge gaps and incorporate evidence-based resources to improve patient care
- Participate in quality improvement initiatives within the emergency department as available

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate clearly and empathetically with patients and families regarding diagnosis, treatment plans, and follow-up instructions
- Collaborate effectively with emergency medicine physicians, consultants, nursing, and ancillary staff
- Document clinical encounters accurately, concisely, and in a timely manner

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, reliability, and respect in a fast-paced clinical environment
- Uphold ethical principles, patient confidentiality, and professional boundaries
- Respond appropriately to feedback and maintain professional behavior under stress

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize emergency department resources efficiently while providing high-value care
- Coordinate care transitions, including consultation, admission, discharge, and follow-up planning
- Recognize system-level barriers to care and advocate for patient-centered solutions

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Recognize common emergency presentations and report findings under direct supervision
- Initiate basic diagnostic evaluations and management plans

PGY-2:

- Develop prioritized differential diagnoses and propose management plans with indirect supervision
- Manage multiple patients with varying acuity levels

PGY-3:

- Independently manage routine emergency presentations with attending oversight
- Lead patient care coordination and assist junior learners in clinical decision-making

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Direct patient care in the emergency department
- Bedside teaching and case-based discussions
- Interdisciplinary collaboration and handoff practice
- Independent review of emergency medicine literature and guidelines

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation
- End-of-rotation faculty evaluation mapped to applicable ACGME milestones
- Assessment of clinical reasoning, communication, documentation, and patient safety

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.