

Radiation Oncology – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Radiation Oncology clinic
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

The Radiation Oncology rotation introduces residents to the role of radiation therapy in the multidisciplinary care of patients with cancer. Residents gain exposure to common oncologic diagnoses, indications for radiation therapy, treatment planning principles, and management of radiation-related side effects. The rotation emphasizes communication with patients and collaboration within multidisciplinary oncology teams.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop an understanding of radiation oncology principles, indications for referral, and the medical management of patients undergoing radiation therapy, while strengthening communication and interdisciplinary care skills.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Participate in the evaluation and longitudinal care of patients receiving radiation therapy
- Recognize common indications for radiation therapy in the treatment of malignancies
- Identify and manage common acute and chronic radiation-related side effects
- Support symptom control, including pain, fatigue, skin reactions, and gastrointestinal symptoms
- Communicate treatment plans and expectations clearly with patients and families

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Understand basic principles of radiation therapy, including fractionation and treatment intent
- Describe the role of radiation oncology in curative, adjuvant, neoadjuvant, and palliative care
- Recognize when radiation oncology consultation is appropriate
- Understand common cancer staging concepts relevant to radiation planning

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Reflect on multidisciplinary treatment planning and outcomes
- Utilize oncology guidelines and evidence-based resources to inform patient care
- Identify learning gaps related to cancer management and pursue self-directed study

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate effectively with patients regarding diagnosis, treatment goals, and side effects
- Collaborate with medical oncologists, surgeons, nurses, and radiation therapists
- Demonstrate sensitivity when discussing prognosis and goals of care

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate compassion and respect for patients with serious illness
- Maintain professionalism in emotionally challenging clinical situations
- Uphold ethical principles related to informed consent and patient autonomy

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Understand the structure of multidisciplinary cancer care
- Coordinate care across oncology subspecialties
- Recognize barriers to cancer treatment access and continuity of care

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Observe radiation oncology clinics and treatment planning sessions
- Learn indications for radiation therapy and common side effects
- Participate in patient discussions under direct supervision

PGY-2:

- Actively participate in patient evaluations and follow-ups
- Identify appropriate referrals and management of treatment-related symptoms
- Communicate effectively within multidisciplinary teams

PGY-3:

- Demonstrate independent understanding of radiation therapy indications
- Integrate radiation oncology principles into comprehensive patient care
- Serve as a liaison between radiation oncology and primary teams

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Radiation oncology clinics
- Multidisciplinary tumor boards
- Case-based discussions
- Independent reading on oncologic management

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation
- Participation in clinics and multidisciplinary discussions
- End-of-rotation evaluation mapped to ACGME milestones

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

Supervision

Residents are supervised by radiation oncology faculty in accordance with ACGME supervision guidelines and are expected to seek guidance for complex clinical or communication issues.