

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Medical Intensive Care Unit
- **Duration:** 4 weeks per academic year
- **Required or Elective:** Required

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with immersive experience in the management of critically ill patients requiring advanced monitoring and life-sustaining therapies. The rotation emphasizes rapid clinical assessment, diagnostic reasoning, ventilator and hemodynamic management, interdisciplinary teamwork, communication with families, and evidence-based care in high-acuity settings.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to progressively demonstrate the knowledge, clinical skills, and clinical judgment necessary to manage critically ill patients in the intensive care unit while delivering safe, timely, high-value, and patient-centered care.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Rapidly assess, stabilize, and manage critically ill patients with respiratory failure, shock, sepsis, multiorgan dysfunction, and altered mental status
- Develop and implement prioritized diagnostic and therapeutic plans for ICU patients, including ventilator management, vasoactive support, sedation, analgesia, and fluid management
- Recognize and respond appropriately to acute clinical deterioration, including arrhythmias, hypoxemia, hypotension, and cardiac arrest
- Perform comprehensive daily reassessments, including evaluation of lines, tubes, medications, and ongoing indications for intensive care
- Be given the opportunity to participate in procedures under supervision including endotracheal intubation, central line placement, arterial line placement, lumbar puncture, thoracentesis, and paracentesis.

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of common critical illnesses, including sepsis, ARDS, shock states, and acute neurologic emergencies
- Interpret ICU-specific diagnostic data, including arterial blood gases, ventilator parameters, hemodynamic measurements, imaging, and laboratory studies
- Apply evidence-based guidelines and protocols for critical care management, including sepsis bundles, ventilator-associated pneumonia prevention, and sedation strategies

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal learning gaps related to critical care medicine and develop targeted learning goals

- Incorporate current evidence, clinical guidelines, and quality improvement principles into ICU patient management
- Reflect on patient outcomes, adverse events, and near-misses to improve future clinical performance

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Present critically ill patients concisely and effectively during interdisciplinary rounds and handoffs
- Communicate clearly and compassionately with patients and families regarding diagnosis, prognosis, goals of care, and treatment options
- Collaborate effectively with nursing, respiratory therapy, pharmacy, advanced practice providers, and consulting services

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, reliability, and ethical behavior in high-stress clinical environments
- Recognize personal limitations and seek timely supervision and assistance
- Uphold patient dignity, confidentiality, and respect, particularly during end-of-life and goals-of-care discussions

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize intensive care resources appropriately to deliver high-value, cost-conscious care
- Coordinate transitions of care between the ICU, step-down units, general medical floors, and post-acute settings
- Participate effectively in hospital emergency response systems, including code blue and rapid response events

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Recognize common critical illnesses and communicate assessment findings under direct supervision
- Participate in initial stabilization, daily patient care, and basic ventilator and hemodynamic management

PGY-2:

- Develop prioritized differential diagnoses and management plans with indirect supervision
- Interpret ICU diagnostics and apply guideline-directed therapies for common critical conditions

PGY-3:

- Independently manage complex ICU patients with attending oversight
- Lead interdisciplinary rounds, supervise junior learners, and coordinate admissions, transfers, and goals-of-care discussions

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Daily multidisciplinary ICU rounds with attending physicians and fellows
- Active participation in admissions, transfers, discharges, and code responses

- Case-based discussions emphasizing evidence-based critical care and high-value practice
- ICU-focused didactics and independent reading

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty and fellow observation during ICU rounds and admissions
- Assessment of clinical reasoning, acute decision-making, and patient management in high-acuity settings
- Observation of interdisciplinary communication, handoffs, and participation in code blue and rapid response events
- 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.