

Gastroenterology – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient gastroenterology consult service; endoscopy suite (observation); outpatient gastroenterology clinics
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Required

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with structured exposure to the evaluation and management of gastrointestinal, hepatic, biliary, and pancreatic disorders across inpatient and outpatient settings. The experience emphasizes diagnostic reasoning, evidence-based management, appropriate use of endoscopic and imaging studies, nutritional considerations, cancer screening, and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to progressively demonstrate the knowledge, clinical skills, and clinical judgment necessary to evaluate and manage common and complex gastrointestinal disorders, provide preventive care, and appropriately utilize gastroenterology consultation and diagnostic procedures.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Obtain focused gastrointestinal histories and perform targeted abdominal and rectal examinations
- Evaluate patients presenting with common gastrointestinal complaints, including abdominal pain, dyspepsia, dysphagia, diarrhea, constipation, gastrointestinal bleeding, jaundice, and ascites
- Formulate evidence-based diagnostic and management plans for disorders of the esophagus, stomach, intestines, liver, biliary tract, and pancreas under appropriate supervision
- Initiate management of acute gastrointestinal conditions, including upper and lower gastrointestinal bleeding, acute hepatitis, biliary pancreatitis, toxic megacolon, and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology, clinical presentation, and natural history of common gastrointestinal and hepatobiliary disorders, including inflammatory bowel disease, chronic liver disease, pancreatitis, and functional gastrointestinal disorders
- Interpret laboratory studies, imaging, and serologic testing relevant to gastrointestinal disease, including hepatitis serologies and liver function tests
- Describe the indications, contraindications, interpretation, and potential complications of endoscopic and radiologic procedures, including upper endoscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, and abdominal imaging
- Apply guideline-directed management for colorectal cancer screening, Barrett esophagus, cirrhosis complications, and inflammatory bowel disease

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal learning gaps related to gastroenterology and hepatology
- Incorporate current clinical guidelines and evidence-based literature into diagnostic and therapeutic decision-making
- Reflect on patient outcomes and integrate feedback to improve future clinical practice

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate diagnostic impressions, management plans, and procedural indications clearly to patients and families
- Present gastrointestinal cases concisely to consulting and interdisciplinary teams
- Collaborate effectively with gastroenterology faculty, nursing, nutrition services, and ancillary staff

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, integrity, and respect in all patient interactions
- Recognize personal limitations and seek appropriate supervision and consultation
- Maintain ethical standards and patient confidentiality, particularly in sensitive diagnostic and procedural discussions

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize diagnostic testing and specialty consultation appropriately to provide high-value, cost-conscious gastrointestinal care
- Coordinate care across inpatient, outpatient, procedural, and community settings
- Identify indications for referral for advanced endoscopic procedures, liver transplantation evaluation, and oncologic care

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Identify common gastrointestinal conditions and communicate assessment findings under direct supervision
- Observe endoscopic procedures and participate in initial diagnostic evaluations

PGY-2:

- Develop differential diagnoses and propose diagnostic and management plans with indirect supervision
- Interpret common gastrointestinal laboratory tests and imaging studies and apply guideline-based therapy

PGY-3:

- Independently manage routine gastrointestinal conditions with attending oversight
- Advise on diagnostic strategies, screening recommendations, and referral decisions

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Inpatient gastroenterology consults and rounds

- Outpatient gastroenterology clinic participation
- Observation of endoscopic and procedural interventions
- Case-based discussions and guideline review
- Independent reading aligned with ACP and GI core topics

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation
- End-of-rotation faculty evaluation
- Assessment of diagnostic reasoning, clinical management, and communication skills
- 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.