

CCU (Cardiac Care Unit) – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient Cardiac Care Unit
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks per academic year
- **Required or Elective:** Required

Rotation Overview

This rotation provides residents with intensive experience in the management of patients with acute and complex cardiovascular conditions requiring close monitoring and advanced medical management. Emphasis is placed on rapid assessment, advanced clinical decision-making, interpretation of cardiac diagnostics, hemodynamic management, interdisciplinary collaboration, and evidence-based treatment of life-threatening cardiac disease.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to progressively develop the knowledge, procedural awareness, and clinical judgment required to manage acute and complex cardiovascular conditions in the critical care setting while providing timely, high-value, and patient-centered care.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Rapidly assess and stabilize patients with acute coronary syndromes, cardiogenic shock, malignant arrhythmias, decompensated heart failure, and hypertensive emergencies
- Formulate and implement evidence-based management plans for STEMI, NSTEMI, unstable angina, acute heart failure, and life-threatening arrhythmias
- Recognize complications of myocardial infarction and initiate appropriate diagnostic evaluation and urgent management

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Explain the pathophysiology and clinical presentation of acute ischemic heart disease, cardiomyopathies, valvular heart disease, and pericardial disease
- Interpret electrocardiograms, cardiac biomarkers, and hemodynamic data in critically ill cardiac patients
- Apply guideline-directed medical therapy and indications for reperfusion, advanced imaging, and invasive intervention

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Identify personal knowledge gaps related to acute cardiovascular care
- Incorporate current evidence, clinical guidelines, and risk stratification tools into management decisions
- Reflect on patient outcomes and integrate feedback to improve future performance in high-acuity settings

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate clearly and effectively with patients and families regarding diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment options
- Present critically ill cardiac patients succinctly during interdisciplinary rounds
- Collaborate effectively with cardiology, critical care, nursing, pharmacy, and ancillary staff

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability, integrity, and respect in high-stress clinical environments
- Recognize personal limitations and seek timely supervision
- Maintain ethical standards and patient confidentiality during complex and emergent situations

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Utilize intensive care and cardiovascular resources appropriately to deliver high-value care
- Coordinate care transitions between the Cardiac Care, cardiac catheterization laboratory, step-down units, and outpatient settings
- Identify indications for cardiology consultation, advanced therapies, and mechanical circulatory support

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Recognize acute cardiac conditions and report findings under direct supervision
- Interpret basic ECGs and participate in initial stabilization and management

PGY-2:

- Develop differential diagnoses and propose management plans with indirect supervision
- Interpret common diagnostic studies and apply guideline-based therapies
- Conduct admissions and transfers to the CCU

PGY-3:

- Independently manage complex cardiac patients with attending oversight
- Lead interdisciplinary rounds and advise on advanced diagnostics and escalation of care

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Daily Cardiac Care rounds with attending cardiologist and cardiology fellow, emphasizing bedside teaching and clinical decision-making
- Active participation in comprehensive cardiovascular histories, physical examinations, and daily progress note documentation
- Case-based discussions emphasizing guideline-directed management and high-value care
- Review of ECGs, cardiac imaging, stress testing, and catheterization findings as applicable

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation
- Ongoing formative feedback from attendings and fellows

- End-of-rotation 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.