

General Surgery – Goals & Objectives

- **Participating Site(s):** Inpatient surgical services; emergency department consultations; operating room (observational/assistive as applicable); outpatient surgical offices as directed
- **Duration:** 2-4 weeks
- **Required or Elective:** Elective

Rotation Overview

The General Surgery rotation provides Internal Medicine residents with exposure to common surgical conditions, perioperative management, and postoperative care. Residents participate in the evaluation of surgical patients, preoperative risk assessment, postoperative monitoring, and interdisciplinary collaboration with surgical teams. The rotation emphasizes timely recognition of surgical pathology, appropriate consultation, and optimization of medical comorbidities in surgical patients.

Overall Rotation Goal

The goal of this rotation is for residents to develop competence in the evaluation and medical management of surgical patients, including perioperative risk assessment, recognition of surgical emergencies, and effective collaboration with surgical teams to optimize patient outcomes.

Educational Objectives (Aligned with ACGME Competencies)

Patient Care

Residents will be able to:

- Perform focused histories and physical examinations for patients with surgical complaints
- Recognize common surgical conditions requiring urgent or emergent intervention, including:
 - Acute appendicitis
 - Bowel obstruction
 - Cholecystitis
 - Gastrointestinal bleeding
 - Hernias
 - Soft tissue infections
- Participate in preoperative evaluation and medical optimization of surgical patients
- Monitor postoperative patients for complications such as infection, bleeding, ileus, and thromboembolism
- Assist in pain management, fluid management, and nutritional support in postoperative patients
- Identify when to escalate care and involve surgical attendings or consulting services

Medical Knowledge

Residents will be able to:

- Understand the indications for common surgical procedures and expected postoperative courses
- Apply principles of perioperative medicine, including:
 - Preoperative risk stratification
 - Management of anticoagulation and antiplatelet therapy
 - Glycemic control
 - Venous thromboembolism prophylaxis
- Recognize common postoperative complications and their management
- Interpret basic surgical imaging and laboratory data in collaboration with surgical teams
- Understand principles of surgical site infection prevention and wound care

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement

Residents will be able to:

- Reflect on surgical patient outcomes to improve clinical decision-making
- Utilize evidence-based guidelines for perioperative and postoperative management
- Identify personal learning gaps related to surgical care and pursue targeted self-directed learning

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents will be able to:

- Communicate effectively with surgical teams, nursing staff, and consulting services
- Participate in interdisciplinary rounds and care planning
- Provide clear and respectful communication with patients and families regarding perioperative care
- Deliver concise handoffs and documentation related to surgical patient care

Professionalism

Residents will be able to:

- Demonstrate accountability and reliability in patient care responsibilities
- Respect professional roles within the interdisciplinary surgical care team
- Maintain appropriate conduct in clinical and operative environments
- Adhere to hospital policies related to patient safety, sterile technique, and documentation

Systems-Based Practice

Residents will be able to:

- Navigate hospital systems related to perioperative care, including consult services and operative scheduling
- Coordinate care transitions between surgical and medical services
- Utilize hospital resources appropriately to support surgical patient care
- Recognize system factors that impact surgical outcomes and patient safety

PGY-Level Expectations

PGY-1:

- Participate in the evaluation of surgical patients under direct supervision
- Recognize common surgical conditions and postoperative complications
- Assist with basic perioperative medical management and documentation

PGY-2:

- Independently manage routine perioperative medical issues with indirect supervision
- Communicate effectively with surgical teams regarding patient status and concerns
- Participate in the evaluation of more complex surgical patients

PGY-3:

- Manage perioperative medical care for complex surgical patients with increasing autonomy
- Serve as a liaison between surgical and medical teams when appropriate
- Demonstrate leadership in interdisciplinary discussions and care coordination

Teaching and Learning Activities

- Inpatient surgical rounds and consults
- Preoperative and postoperative patient evaluations
- Interdisciplinary care discussions with surgical teams
- Independent reading focused on surgical conditions and perioperative medicine

Evaluation and Feedback

Resident performance is evaluated through:

- Direct faculty observation
- Review of clinical documentation and perioperative management decisions
- Feedback from surgical attendings and interdisciplinary team members
- End-of-rotation evaluation mapped to 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. Residents are expected to seek attending input for acute surgical emergencies, clinical deterioration, or uncertainty regarding perioperative management.