General Surgery Residency  
Loma Linda University Medical Center

VAMC General Surgery (PM) Goals and Objectives

PGY 2

Goals:

The Loma Linda Veterans' Administration Medical Center will provide a learning environment for the management and care of the surgical oncology patient. Surgical basic science, including fluids and electrolytes, wound healing and nutrition, will be emphasized. Clinically, residents will assess surgical pathology pre-operatively, develop clinical judgment on managing these issues, and learn operative skills to address the problem. Careful postoperative care and follow up will be emphasized. In addition, residents will participate in the various tumor boards and become familiar with the different adjuvant treatment options. Residents will develop cognitive and technical skills in dealing with complex oncological issues.

Objectives:

MEDICAL KNOWLEDGE

Describe the embryological development of the peritoneal cavity and the position of the abdominal viscera.

Diagram the anatomy of the abdomen including its viscera and anatomic spaces.

Describe the anatomy of the omentum and its role in responding to inflammatory processes.

Describe the treatment alternatives for the patient with an acute abdomen according to the specific aetiology.

Summarize basic critical care management principles.

Discuss wound care management in the emergency department and other settings, including management of drains and tubes inserted into various body cavities.
Explain the characteristics of basic surgical skill, including: sterile technique, incisions, wound closures, knot tying, handling of tissues and selection/use of operating instruments.

Consistently apply basic science principles to common clinical situations.

Ability to interpret radiographic findings, EKGs, laboratory data, and intravascular and trans-esophageal monitoring systems.

List etiologies for persistently high NGT output in the postoperative patient or patients with small bowel obstruction.

Evaluate and institute management of abdominal wound problems.

Describe the clinical presentation of a patient with abscesses, biliary disease, bowel obstructions, diverticulitis, haemorrhoids and fissures.

Describe the risks associated with appendectomy, cholecystectomy and I&D of abscesses.

Develop an understanding of the principles of pre and post-surgical operative care for patients in the General Surgery rotation.

List at least seven aetiologies for small bowel obstructions and ileus.

List three of four causes of mesenteric ischemia.

Assist in closure of abdominal incisions and exhibit competency in suture technique.

Describe the important history and data to be taken prior to central line placement.

Be able to apply and remove all types of dressings.

Make and close a variety of incisions and tie knots using sterile technique.

Describe the management of glucose in the diabetic patient.

Describe the different ventilatory modalities.

**PATIENT CARE**
Establish basic proficiency in providing pre-operative and post-operative care (writes appropriate pre-op and post-op orders for floor patients, handles nursing calls appropriately, and manages most routine post-operative care with minimal intervention by supervisor).

Take an appropriate history to evaluate patients with general surgical issues to include:

a. A complete history of present illness
b. Presence of any co-morbidities
c. A review of social and family history impacting the present problem
d. A complete review of systems

Demonstrate an increasing level of skill in the physical examination of the general surgery patient with a special emphasis in recognition of the surgical abdomen.

Develop a proficiency in evaluation and interpretation of the different diagnostic modalities including: X-Rays, ultrasounds, CT scans, Contrast studies and MRIs.

Discuss treatment options, risks and potential complications of patients with general surgical issues.

Assist in the performance of general surgical, thoracic and vascular procedures.

Demonstrate skill in basic surgical techniques, including:

- Knot tying
- Exposure and retraction
- Knowledge of instrumentation
- Incisions
- Closure of incisions
- Placement of central venous lines
- Placement of thoracostomy tubes of various types
- Handling of graft material including mesh
- Establishing penumoperitoneum
- Handling of laparoscopic instruments
- Handling of the laparoscopic camera, including the 30 degree camera

PROFESSIONALISM
Learn to communicate clearly, effectively and compassionately with patients, family, team members and staff

Understand the principles of efficient and accurate medical communication for sign outs and hand offs

Learn to place patients reactions to illness within their larger social and cultural Backgrounds

Learn the principles of informed patient decision making

Respect patient confidentiality

Demonstrate consistent, clear communication with patients and families

Demonstrate composure and equanimity under stress

Demonstrate a spirit of helpfulness

Demonstrate the ability to carefully and thoughtfully describe operative procedures to patients.

**INTERPERSONAL AND COMMUNICATION SKILLS**

Work as effective team members

Cultivate a culture of mutual respect with members of nursing and support staff

Develop patterns of frequent and accurate communication with team members and attending staff

Gain an appreciation for both verbal and non verbal communication from patients and staff

Demonstrate consistent respectful interactions with members of nursing and support staff

Demonstrate consistent, accurate and timely communication with members of the surgical team

Demonstrate sensitivity and thoughtfulness to patients concerns, and anxieties.
PRACTICE-BASED LEARNING

Accept responsibility for all dimensions of routine patient management on the Wards

Apply knowledge of scientific data and best practices to the care of the surgical Patient

Facilitate learning of medical students and physician assistant students on the team.

Use the VA library, databases on on-line resources to obtain up to date information and review recent advances in the care of the surgical patient.

Demonstrate a consistent pattern of responsible patient care and application of new knowledge to patient management

Demonstrate teaching efforts with medical students and physician assistant Students

Demonstrate a command and facility with on line educational tools.

SYSTEMS-BASED PRACTICE

Understand, review, and contribute to the refinement of clinical pathways

Understand the cost implications of medical decision making

Partner with health care management to facilitate resource efficient utilization of VA hospital resources

Describe in general terms the benefits of clinical pathway implementation

Demonstrate consistency in working with healthcare management personnel in discharge planning