

Community Surgery

Charlottetown, PEI; Carbonear, NL; Clarenville, NL; Gander, NL; Grand Falls-Windsor, NL; Happy Valley-Goose Bay, NL

Medical Expert

See Objectives; Medical Expert

The community hospital rotation is primarily designed to afford the resident a broad range of operative opportunities. The rotation specific medical expert/clinical decision-maker objectives for all the general surgery services and subspecialty services may be used to guide the community hospital rotation as a broad range of general surgery is undertaken in the community hospital setting. Familiarity in the diagnosis and management of common general surgery conditions such as hernias, gall bladder disease, colorectal disease, skin lesions, and trauma will be emphasized. The opportunity to perform upper and lower GI endoscopy will be afforded.

Communicator

See Objectives: Communicator

To provide humane, high-quality care, specialists establish effective relationships with patients, other physicians, and other health professionals. Communication skills are essential for the functioning of a specialist, and are necessary for obtaining information from, and conveying information to patients and their families. Furthermore, these abilities are critical in eliciting patients' beliefs, concerns, and expectations about their illnesses, and for assessing key factors impacting on patients' health.

General Requirements

1. Establish therapeutic relationships with patients'/families.
2. Obtain and synthesize relevant history from patients/families/communities.
3. Listen effectively.
4. Discuss appropriate information with patients/families and the health care team.

Collaborator

See Objectives: Collaborator

Specialists work in partnership with others who are appropriately involved in the care of individuals or specific groups of patients. It is therefore essential for specialists to be able to collaborate effectively with patients and a multidisciplinary team of expert health professionals for provision of optimal patient care, education, and research.

General Requirements

1. Consult effectively with other physicians and health care professions. This is of particular relevance to the community hospital rotation as patients are frequently transferred to either the tertiary hospitals in St. John's and to small community hospitals.
2. Contribute effectively to other interdisciplinary team activities.

Manager

See Objectives: Manager

Specialists function as managers when they make everyday practice decisions involving resources, co-workers, tasks, policies, and their personal lives. They do this in the settings of individual patient care, practice organizations, and in the broader context of the health care system. Thus, specialists require the abilities to prioritize and effectively execute tasks through teamwork with colleagues, and make systematic decisions when allocating finite health care resources. As managers, specialists take on positions of leadership within the context of professional organizations and the dynamic Canadian health care system.

General Requirements

1. Utilize resources effectively to balance patient care, learning needs, and outside activities. The resident will be exposed to the community surgeon's style of life management.
2. Allocate finite health care resources wisely.
3. Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization.
4. Utilize information technology to optimize patient care, life-long learning and other activities.

Health Advocate

See Objectives: Health Advocate

Specialists recognize the importance of advocacy activities in responding to the challenges represented by those social, environmental, and biological factors that determine the health of patients and society. They recognize advocacy as an essential and fundamental component of health promotion that occurs at the level of the individual patient, the practice population, and the broader community. Health advocacy is appropriately expressed both by the individual and collective responses of specialist physicians in influencing public health and safety.

General Requirements

1. Identify the important determinants of health affecting patients.
2. Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities.
3. Recognize and respond to those issues where advocacy is appropriate.

Scholar

See Objectives: Scholar

As scholars, general surgeons demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning, and creation, dissemination, application and translation of new knowledge and technologies that inform each CanMEDS domain. This is particularly important for a resident during a community rotation as the multitude of rounds and surgical subspecialists present in the tertiary center are not available or present in the rural setting.

During a clinical rotation the resident should:

1. Identify clinical problems in general surgery;
2. Recognize and identify gaps in knowledge and expertise around the problem;
 - a. Formulate a management plan:
 - b. conduct an appropriate literature search based on the clinical question
 - c. assimilate and appraise the literature
 - d. develop a system to store and retrieve relevant literature
 - e. consult others (physicians and other health professionals) in a collegial manner
 - f. propose treatment for the clinical problem;
 - g. evaluate the outcome; and
 - h. identify practice areas for research

Professional

See Objectives: Professional

Specialists have a unique societal role as professionals with a distinct body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of others. Specialists are committed to the highest standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct, and to continually perfecting mastery of their discipline.

General Requirements

1. Deliver highest quality care with integrity, honesty and compassion.
2. Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours.
3. Practice medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician.