

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, Team C, Thoracic Surgery

Medical Expert

See Objectives: Medical Expert

Specialists possess a defined body of knowledge and procedural skills, which are used to collect and interpret data, make appropriate clinical decisions, and carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures within the boundaries of their discipline and expertise. Their care is characterized by up-to-date and whenever possible evidence-based, ethical, and cost-effective clinical practice and effective communication in partnership with patients, other health care providers, and the community. They arrange for the appropriate investigations recognizing the rationale, the strengths and limitations of each as well as the cost implications.

The role of medical expert/clinical decision-maker is central to the function of specialist physicians, and draws on the competencies included in the roles of scholar, communicator, health advocate, manager, collaborator, and professional.

General Requirements

1. Demonstrate diagnostic and therapeutic skills for ethical and effective patient care.
2. Access and apply relevant information to clinical practice.
3. Demonstrate effective consultation services with respect to patient care, education and legal opinion.

Specific Requirements

1. Residents both at the junior and senior levels should be able to describe and participate in the diagnostic workup of thoracic patients including history, physical, laboratory, and appropriate imaging techniques.
2. Residents should be able to diagnose and manage common thoracic conditions such as spontaneous pneumothorax, pleural effusions, hemothorax, and empyema.
3. The resident should be familiar with the management of respiratory failure and ventilatory support.
4. The resident should become familiar with staging and management principles of esophageal and lung cancer in both potentially curative and palliative situations.
5. The resident should become familiar with the principles of management of reflux esophagitis and other benign esophageal conditions (stricture, motility d/o, esophageal diverticuli/hernias).

Skills

1. Bronchoscopy, flexible and rigid esophagoscopy are not specific skill objectives but residents should be aware of their indications and complications.

2. The resident should be able to perform tracheostomy under supervision as a junior resident. The senior resident should be able to perform tracheostomy with minimal or no supervision.
3. Junior residents should be able to insert chest tubes under supervision and by the end of the first year be able to insert chest tubes without supervision.
4. The resident should be familiar with and be able to perform common thoracic surgical incisions.
5. The performance of lung resections, total esophagectomy, and transthoracic hiatal hernia surgery are not specific objectives of the program. Residents with a particular interest and aptitude may have the opportunity to perform part of all of such operations.

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

1. 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.
2. During this rotation, residents will be required to collaborate with other house staff, nurses, allied health care providers, family physicians, and other specialists on a daily basis.

General Requirements

1. Consult effectively with other physicians and health care professions, particularly physiotherapy and respiratory medicine.
2. Contribute effectively to other interdisciplinary team activities, particularly oncology.

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
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, e.g. smoking.
2. Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities.
3. Recognize and respond to those issues where advocacy is appropriate, e.g. smoking cessation programs.

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. During a clinical rotation, the resident should:

General Requirements

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.