

## **St. Clare's Mercy Hospital, Vascular 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.

Experience in the techniques of vascular anastomosis and the management of emergency vascular care is mainly obtained on the PGY 2 Vascular Surgery rotation at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and during the Chief Resident year at St. Clare's.

#### *Knowledge*

1. Etiology
2. Pathophysiology
3. Clinical diagnosis
4. Laboratory investigation
5. Indications for and limitations of angiography
6. Conservative and operative management.

The above knowledge would apply to the following disease processes.

1. Acute and chronic arterial disease
2. Venous disease

#### *Skills*

1. Exposure of the following arteries: Abdominal aorta, Femoral, Popliteal, Brachial
2. Control of bleeding and repair of arteries which have been traumatized
3. Use of the balloon embolectomy catheter
4. Basic arterial anastomoses
5. Ligation stripping and excision of varicose veins

6. Methods of obtaining long-term vascular access
7. Amputation
8. Fasciotomy
9. Dialysis access procedure

If the practice of General Surgery is to include a major component of Vascular Surgery, then additional training in Vascular Surgery should be obtained. Although expertise in Vascular Surgery is an essential part of every General Surgeon's background, the surgeon should be humble enough to realize his limitations and to make the appropriate referral when it is in the patient's best interests.

### **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.

This is a very busy rotation and 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, especially with radiology regarding non-operative management of vascular disease.

2. Contribute effectively to 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.
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, smoking being particularly important for the vascular patient population.
2. Contribute effectively to improved health of patients and communities with particular emphasis on smoking cessation programs.
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. During a clinical rotation, the resident should:

4. Identify clinical problems in general surgery;
5. 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 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, particularly end-of-life care for oncology patients.
2. Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviours.
3. Practice medicine ethically consistent with obligations of a physician