

GENERAL SURGERY

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Introduction

Fourth year student Clinical Science Electives in General Surgery are offered at both Windsor Regional Hospital campuses.

General Description

Students are integrated into the surgical team and assist in all aspects of patient care. Students will be expected to take part in ward rounds, clinics and observe and assist in operative procedures.

GENERAL SURGERY OBJECTIVES

1. Medical Expert

A. General

- a) Participate as a full member of the General Surgery team during ward rounds, teaching rounds, clinics, operating room and participate in daily clinical duties.
N.B. On the first day, the clerk should discuss the weekly schedule with the senior resident or consultant on his/her respective team.
- b) Gain knowledge of the anatomy, physiology and pathophysiology of common general surgical problems, including trauma.
- c) Learn how to take a detailed history, evaluate (physical examination and ancillary tests) and develop a management plan for patients presenting with common general surgery problems as well the multiply injured trauma patient.

B. Knowledge

- a) Have a basic understanding of the peri-operative evaluation of the surgical patient (including fluids and electrolytes, nutrition and common post-operative complications).
- b) Have a basic knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the GI tract, endocrine systems (thyroid, adrenal, parathyroid), breast and hernias
- c) Have a basic understanding of the presentation, investigation and management of the following common general surgery problems:
 - i) the acute abdomen
 - ii) gallbladder disease
 - iii) hernias
 - iv) perianal disease
 - v) colorectal cancer
 - vi) breast cancer
 - vii) endocrine disorders (thyroid, parathyroid and adrenal)
 - viii) trauma patient

C. Skills

- a) Take appropriate history and physical exam on general surgery patients in both elective and emergent scenarios.
- b) Establish a management plan based on appropriate consideration of conservative, medical or surgical options for the disease process.
- c) Participate in the operating room and show appropriate skills and attitudes to:
 - i. Prep and drape a sterile field
 - ii. Insert urethral catheter (Foley)
 - iii. Insert naso-gastric tube
 - iv. Identify pertinent operative anatomy
 - v. Perform basic surgical techniques (retraction, tissue handling, and basic suturing).

2.0 Communicator

Develop rapport, trust, and ethical therapeutic relationships with patients and families.

- 2.1. Identify good communication skill as a core physician and that effective physician-patient communication can foster patient satisfaction, physician satisfaction and improved clinical outcomes.
- 2.2. Establish positive therapeutic relationships, characterized by understanding, trust, respect, honesty and empathy, with patients and their families.
- 2.3. Respect patient confidentiality and privacy.

Accurately elicit and synthesize relevant information and perspectives of patients and families, colleagues, and other professionals.

- 2.4. Gather relevant information about a disease, but also about a patient's beliefs, concerns, expectations and illness experience.
- 2.5. Seek out and synthesize relevant information from other sources, such as a patient's family, caregivers and other professionals.

Develop a common understanding on issues, problems and plans with patients, families, and other professionals to develop a shared plan of care.

- 2.6. Effectively identify and explore problems to be addressed from a patient encounter, including the patient's context, responses, concerns, and preferences.
- 2.7. Respect diversity and difference in shared decision-making including, but not limited to, the impact of gender, religion and cultural belief.
- 2.8. Engage patients, families, and relevant health professionals in shared decision-making to develop a plan of care.
- 2.9. Effectively address challenging communication issues such as obtaining informed consent, delivering bad news, and addressing anger, confusion and misunderstanding.
- 2.10. Deliver information to a patient and family, colleagues and other professionals in a humane manner and in such a way that it is understandable, and encourages discussion and participation in decision-making.

Convey effective oral and written information about a medical encounter.

- 2.11. Maintain clear, accurate, and appropriate records (i.e., written or electronic) of clinical encounters and plans.
- 2.12. Effectively present verbal reports of clinical encounters and plans.

3.0 Collaborator

Participate effectively and appropriately in an interprofessional healthcare team.

- 3.1 Work effectively with patients and families.
- 3.2 Work effectively with other health professionals to prevent, negotiate, and resolve interprofessional conflict.
- 3.3 Recognize and respect the diversity of roles, responsibilities and competencies of other professionals in relation to one's own.
- 3.4 Work with others to assess, plan, provide and integrate care for individual patients (or groups of patients) and review other tasks, such as research problems and educational work.

Contribute to a positive working environment with colleagues and other members of the health care team.

- 3.5 Recognize interpersonal differences, misunderstandings and limitations that may contribute to interprofessional tension.
- 3.6 Contribute to the working relationships on teams and participate in a collegial process to maximize the effective functioning of individuals and the team.

4.0 Manager

Contribute to the effectiveness of the healthcare system.

- 4.1 Describe the structure and function of the healthcare system.
- 4.2 Describe and access community resources and health care services.
- 4.3 Access and manage appropriate resources for learning and patient care.
- 4.4 Develop the skills required to make ethical decisions for the allocation of finite health care resources.
- 4.5 Participate effectively in committees and meetings.
- 4.6 Describe and participate in quality assurance initiatives.

5.0 Health Advocate

Advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities and populations.

- 5.1 Use health-related knowledge and skills to contribute to community well-being.
- 5.2 Identify opportunities for advocacy, health promotion, disease prevention and health care quality improvement in the community, and respond appropriately.
- 5.3 Identify the legal rights and responsibilities of physicians to the community and to patients.

- 5.4 Identify moral and ethical responsibilities of physicians to the community and to patients.
- 5.5 Describe determinants of health and explain their role in individual and community well-being.

6.0 Scholar

Develop skills in life-long learning.

- 6.1 Identify areas of deficiency in one's personal knowledge or skills.
- 6.2 Identify appropriate educational resources to address knowledge or skill deficiencies.
- 6.3 Evaluate personal learning progress using appropriate tools.
- 6.4 Develop the self-knowledge necessary for personal growth.
- 6.5 Apply newly gained knowledge or skills to the care of patients.
- 6.6 Demonstrate skill in disseminating knowledge within the medical and scientific communities and the community.

Critically evaluate medical information and its sources, and apply this appropriately.

- 6.7 Determine the validity and applicability of published evidence through critical appraisal.
- 6.8 Demonstrate a proclivity towards curiosity and humility, and the ability to question in the face of the unknown.

Contribute to the creation, dissemination, application and translation of new knowledge and practices.

- 6.9 Demonstrate skill in the use of the scientific method to further understanding of human health, disease and illness.
- 6.10 Attain familiarity with basic scientific and translational research and demonstrate how its results can be applied to clinical medicine.
- 6.11 Adhere to the principles of ethical research.

7.0 Professional

Demonstrate commitment to one's teachers, classmates, patients, the profession and society through ethical behaviour.

- 7.1 Demonstrate and practice the Four Pillars of Professionalism: Altruism, Integrity, Responsibility and Respect.
- 7.2 Recognize and respond appropriately to ethical issues.
- 7.3 Maintain appropriate professional boundaries.
- 7.4 Appropriately identify and manage conflicts of interest.

Demonstrate social accountability through a commitment to one's colleagues, patients, the profession and society.

- 7.5 Abide by the professional, legal and ethical codes of practice.

- 7.6 Respond appropriately to the diverse needs of individuals and communities served.
- 7.7 Recognize and respond appropriately to the unprofessional behaviour of others.

Demonstrate a commitment to personal health, balancing the goal of excellence in education with a sustainable work ethic.

- 7.8 Balance personal and professional priorities to ensure personal health, successful education and proficient service.
- 7.9 Strive to heighten personal and professional awareness and insight.
- 7.10 Demonstrate knowledge of obligations, resources and options for care in the event that they identify impairment in themselves or colleagues.

Demonstrate a commitment to reflective practice.

- 7.11 Develop skills in self-reflection, and an understanding of how one's biases, attitudes and feelings impact self-learning and service.
- 7.12 Demonstrate the ability to gather information about personal performance, to know one's own limits, and to seek help appropriately.
- 7.13 Reflect on events, especially critical incidents, to deepen self-knowledge.

Type of Clinical Experience

Inpatient and Outpatient

Call Expectations

Night and weekend call will vary depending on the service.

Evaluation Procedure

This will be based on observation of the student's performance and the Summative Clinical Electives Assessment

LOTTERY:

General Surgery electives are ONLY available in Blocks 2, 4, 6 & 8 via the On-line Electives Lottery –
1 Student per Block