

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
NEPHROLOGY ROTATION OBJECTIVES
PLASMAPHERESIS SELECTIVE - VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Updated December 12, 2024

Reviewed by Residency Program Committee: September 24, 2025

Next review date: September 2027

PREAMBLE: This rotation is designed to ensure that the Nephrology Trainee develops expertise in the management of patients requiring plasmapheresis.

- On Plasmapheresis, the Trainee is expected to assess any patients undergoing Plasmapheresis during the week. They must report to the Plasmapheresis Unit at Victoria Hospital at 0900 Monday to Friday and speak with the Plasmapheresis Charge Nurse. The Trainee may be required to come in as early as 0800 depending on the requirements of the Charge Nurse.
- The Trainee is also expected to attend **ALL** GN clinics during the week. The clinics are scheduled from 1300 hours to 1700 hours. Trainees will also attend a Friday Morning Urgent Clinic from 0830 hours to 1200 hours on Friday mornings, if scheduled.
- All clinics are conducted under the supervision of a staff Nephrologist. Most clinics deal with patients with glomerulonephritis.
- Trainees may also be expected to assess any GN patients on plasmapheresis at Victoria Hospital.
- Trainees may be expected to see any GN patients admitted to hospital.
- Trainees may be expected to perform procedures in the Plasmapheresis Unit (e.g. temporary dialysis line insertion, PermCath removal etc.).
- The Trainee is expected to dictate notes on all patients seen in the clinic within 24-hours of seeing the patients, and to follow-up on any laboratory or imaging tests ordered during the clinic.
- The Trainee is expected to attend any scheduled noon hour Interhospital Rounds and Journal Club Rounds held from 1200 - 1300 hours. Trainees are scheduled to present at Rounds throughout the year.
- The Nephrology Trainee will participate in the Nephrology Resident Call schedule (home call), as per PARO guidelines.
- As the Nephrology Trainee progresses in their stages of training, it is expected that they will be more independent as well as provide supervision of procedures to junior trainees. They will have more clinical and administrative autonomy that is deemed appropriate by the supervising Consultant.

ROTATION FREQUENCY:

- 1) Trainees in their second year (PGY5), have the opportunity to choose this selective to further enhance their learning.

EVALUATION:

- 1) ITER completion through One45.
- 2) EPA completion through ELENTRA

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE:

- 1) Library facility.
- 2) Textbook- Renal Physiology 6th Edition and Handbook of Dialysis 5th Edition.
- 3) Online educational material.

Achievable Entrustable Professional Activities

The following EPAs have been identified as being achievable during this training experience:

Transition to Discipline

- EPA 1: Assessing patients with known kidney disease, identifying the unique concerns seen in Nephrology patients.
- EPA 2: Recognizing Nephrology-specific emergencies/urgencies, demonstrating insight as to own limits and knowing when to seek appropriate help.

Foundations

- EPA 3: Assessing and providing an initial plan for investigation and management for patients with hematuria and/or proteinuria.
- EPA 5: Providing consultative care for patients with known renal disease admitted with other medical or surgical problems.
- EPA 11: Obtaining central venous access for dialysis.

Core

- EPA 1: Establishing a comprehensive treatment plan for patients with AKI.
- EPA 2: Ordering and adjusting prescriptions for patients with AKI and other acute/urgent indications for extracorporeal therapy.
- EPA 9: Monitoring patients receiving immune modulating therapy and managing complications.
- EPA 10: Monitoring and providing medical management for patients with stable renal disease.
- EPA 11: Providing comprehensive care for patients with progressive kidney dysfunction.
- EPA 16: Supporting vulnerable patients to improve their health literacy and engage them to become partners in their care.
- EPA 17: Integrating knowledge of the effects of pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, renal disease, and its treatments in the care of women with renal disease
- EPA 18: Managing longitudinal aspects of care in a clinic.
- EPA 19: Working with the interprofessional team to coordinate the care of patients with renal disease.
- EPA 20: Advancing the discipline through scholarly activities.
- EPA 21: Delivering scholarly teaching to a variety of audiences, including peers, junior trainees, and/or other health professionals.
- EPA 22: Identifying and analyzing patient- and/or system-level health care delivery for the purposes of quality assurance or improvement.

Transition to Practice

- EPA 1: Managing the multidimensional aspects of nephrology practice.

Over the course of the Adult Nephrology Training Program at Western University, trainees will cover the competencies and objectives outlined in the Royal College Nephrology Competencies found [here](#). In this rotation, the following competencies will be emphasized:

MEDICAL EXPERT (the integrating role):

- 1) Possesses the basic scientific knowledge relevant to the care of patients who require plasmapheresis
- 2) Possesses the knowledge of indications for initiation of plasmapheresis.
- 3) Demonstrate therapeutic skills for the effective management of patients requiring plasmapheresis.
- 4) Possesses the clinical knowledge relevant to Immunology and Nephrology.
- 5) History and physical examinations are complete, accurate and well organized.
- 6) Gathers and uses all the pertinent information to arrive at complete and accurate clinical decisions.
- 7) Recognizes and manages emergency conditions for patients requiring plasmapheresis, including bleeding, electrolyte complications, etc.
- 8) Proficiently obtains central venous access for plasmapheresis with minimal patient risk and discomfort.
- 9) Understands the mechanisms of action, indications and side effects of immunosuppressive medications and plasmapheresis.
- 10) Assess and apply relevant information from pharmacokinetics for patients requiring plasmapheresis (i.e., drug dosing or removal).

COMMUNICATOR:

- 1) Establishes a therapeutic relationship with patients and communicates well with families.
- 2) Provides clear and thorough explanations of diagnosis, investigation and management.
- 3) Establishes good relationships with peers and other health professionals. Effectively provides and receives information.
- 4) Prepares documentation that is accurate and timely.
- 5) Informs patients about issues related to the initiation, withdrawal, or altering of treatments for patients receiving plasmapheresis.
- 6) Communicates the risks and benefits of immunosuppression and plasmapheresis for patients diagnosed with renal, hematologic, or autoimmune conditions.

COLLABORATOR:

- 1) Interacts effectively with other health professionals by recognizing and acknowledging their roles and expertise.
- 2) Consults and delegates effectively and appropriately.
- 3) Collaborates effectively and constructively with other members of the health care team.

LEADER:

- 1) Makes cost effective use of health care resources based on sound judgement.
- 2) Sets realistic priorities and uses time effectively in order to optimize professional performance.

- 3) Implements a team-based approach to the care of patients requiring plasmapheresis, including getting input and advice from nursing, pharmacy, social work, dieticians, medical students, residents and consultants.

HEALTH ADVOCATE:

- 1) Identifies the social, economic and biologic factors that may impact on an individual patient's health.
- 2) Identifies the social, economic and biologic factors that may impact on the health care of groups of patients with renal, autoimmune, or hematologic disease.
- 3) Responds appropriately in advocacy situations.
- 4) Identify the important determinants of health affecting the individual patient, and particular problems related to the health care of patients with complex glomerular, autoimmune, or hematologic disease.

SCHOLAR:

- 1) Demonstrates an understanding and a commitment to the need for continuous learning.
- 2) Develops and implements an ongoing and effective personal learning strategy.
- 3) Critically appraises medical information. Successfully integrates information from a variety of sources.
- 4) Helps others learn by providing guidance, teaching and by giving constructive feedback.
- 5) Demonstrates the skill of contributing to the development of new knowledge by the performance of case reports, original scientific research or participation in the performance of CQI (continuous quality improvement).
- 6) Develop skills that will ultimately lead to becoming a competent and excellent physician who will serve as a future leader in clinical and academic nephrology focusing on the management of plasmapheresis.

PROFESSIONAL:

- 1) Demonstrates integrity, honesty, compassion and respect for diversity.
- 2) Understands the medical, legal and professional obligations of the specialist.
- 3) Meets deadlines, is punctual, monitors patients and provides follow up.
- 4) Understands the principles of ethics and applies these in clinical situations.
- 5) Demonstrates an awareness of own limitations, seeking advice when necessary. Accepts advice graciously.