

Welcome to the VA General Surgery Rotation.

During this rotation you will become familiar not only with General surgery problems, but also basic surgical principles that apply to many different disciplines. You will find that attention to detail in regard to medical issues must be considered in order to optimize the results of surgical outcomes. There will be many opportunities for learning on this service including in the clinic, in the OR, in conferences, and on rounds with the house staff and attendings. However, consistent with the principles of adult learning, much will be **up to you** to take advantage of these opportunities.

So how can you maximize your experience? Of course, you will have many competing demands and goals, so you must be efficient with your time. First, you should have a positive attitude, no matter what your previous perceptions about surgery or interest in another field with apparent minimal relevance to surgery. You may be surprised. Second, participate. You can be an important part of the team. Third, be on time. If you can't be on time, be early. People notice. Fourth, read and review; To be at least minimally prepared for the operating room, we expect you to do the following :

1) Review the pathophysiology and anatomy before you go to the OR. You will shine.

2) Know why the patient is having the procedure. If you don't you may be asked to leave the room.!

3) Be able to discuss the potential complications of the procedure.

You should know what problems your patients may have after surgery or interventions.

You can ask questions too, especially if these are not clear from your reading. Remember the adage: "there are no stupid questions, just stupid people". Prepare, and you won't be perceived as the latter! We don't expect you to be knowledgeable about surgical techniques and nuances, and we will guide you in your initial presentations on rounds and conferences. Just try and know more about your patients than anyone else!

Small group sessions are a priority, but hopefully your preceptor will schedule them other than mornings when much of our OR and teaching clinics occur. Remember, the small group sessions are to familiarize you with the MINIMUM knowledge any physician should have about surgery. We would encourage you to go beyond this by exploring any standard textbook in surgery to read about cases you will see on this or any other surgical or subspecialty service..

Besides the above, we expect attendance at all the Surgery major conferences in 2W AMP on Tuesday (Grand Rounds @ 7AM and M&M @ 4 PM) as well as the Monday Morning Conference in the VA Hospital led by Dr. Ramsey Camp.

Rounds and assigned tasks generally will be at the discretion of the Senior Resident, who is responsible for the day-to-day ward care of our patients. The General Operating schedule has Bariatric Surgery patients usually scheduled on the second and fourth Monday every month. Tuesdays are operative surgery days for Dr Pullatt and Dr Countryman. Wednesdays are operating days for Dr. Lockett. Thursdays are operating days for Dr. Countryman and Dr.Camp. Additionally Dr. Camp operates on Some Mondays. A student is expected to attend all OR cases unless they are involved in other surgical procedures at the VA, at MUH, or in the ART building or attending a required educational activity. It is expected that students will inform the chief resident whenever they plan to attend a case outside of the VA hospital .Use your discretion to cover the case, a colectomy takes precedence over a lipoma removal. Please divide the cases on the day before and have a clear plan as to who is going in for what case.

The General Surgery Clinics are on Monday afternoon (1pm-4pm) and Friday (8am-11am). These are not optional; unless you are scrubbed in a case or are in small group or post call, make every effort to attend the same. I hope this information will be sufficient to make your stay productive and enjoyable.