



Department of Urologic Sciences

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Ambulatory Clinic Rotation

Rotation Goals and Objectives

General Objectives

The Ambulatory Clinic rotation provides training in adult urology. There are a number of ambulatory care settings available for residents and the resident will be given considerable freedom to design their own schedule. It is expected that the resident will attend an office or clinic Monday through Friday with time for independent study when the clinic is finished for the day.

This rotation will provide valuable training in areas essential for urologic practice, which may not be properly taught during the “in-patient” hospital-based rotations. In particular, this rotation allows teaching of principles and concepts related to practice management, obtaining informed consent, discussing “bad news”, health advocacy and economical use of limited health care resources. This rotation will also teach residents how to set a priority list for patients awaiting surgery, how to evaluate operative risk and prepare patients awaiting surgery.

Locations

Examples of clinics or offices available for residents include those listed below. It is the residents’ responsibility to contact the office/clinic in advance to ensure they can accommodate a resident. The resident is required to keep a record of the clinics attended and patients seen and show this to the program director at the end of the rotation.

- General urology clinic – Diamond Health Care Centre
- Renal transplant clinic – medical and surgical – Diamond Health Care Centre
- Medical oncology clinic – BC Cancer Agency
- Voiding dysfunction - Bladder Care Centre, UBC Hospital
- Infertility – Lions Gate Hospital
- Neurourology – International Collaboration on Repair Discoveries (ICORD), VGH

Urology Competencies

Medical Expert:

The resident will learn skills to enable them to perform consultations utilizing available elements from patient history, physical examination, imaging and lab/special testing and adjunctive history from other health professionals. The component skills include but are not limited to:

- Performing an appropriate focused history and physical exam of the Urologic patient
- Gather adjunctive data relevant to the presentation of the Urologic patient, including medical imaging and reports, lab data, and special test results and reports as well as consultation reports from other health providers.
- Synthesize gathered data and formulate differential diagnoses
- Plan further diagnostic strategies to refine the diagnosis as required with sensitivity to patient concerns, cost and a rationale use of medical testing
- Plan therapeutic strategies based on the Urologic diagnoses with sensitivity to patient concerns, and cost
- Counsel patient empathically and an evidence couched approach, respecting their cultural values and ethics
- Understand the ethical, legal and cultural ramifications of Urological diagnoses and their potential treatments
- Formulate a follow up strategy to appropriately assess the therapeutic plan's effectiveness and revise as required
- In all aspects, deliver written and verbal communication to attending or associated faculty or health care providers which is logical, direct and informative.
- Formulate a plan for the safe and effective discharge of patients from clinic back to their referring physician or primary care provider.

The resident will develop and demonstrate clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to outpatient Urological care. Conditions to be encountered include:

- Congenital and developmental abnormalities
- Obstructive disease of the upper tract
- Obstructive disease of the lower tract
- Urinary calculous disease
- Urinary fistulae
- Urinary and genital infections
- Trauma
- Renovascular hypertension
- Renal transplantation
- Andrology
- Urological oncology
- Voiding disorders and neurourology
- Adrenal diseases
- Systemic diseases and other process affecting the urinary tract (e.g.: HIV, pregnancy, etc)
- Disorders of male genitalia

The resident will develop and demonstrate knowledge of the mechanism of action and physiological effects of therapeutic technologies relevant to Urology including but not limited to:

- Electrosurgery
- Extracorporeal Shock Wave Lithotripsy

- Lasers
- Transurethral surgery
- Botulinum toxin
- Neurostimulation
- Radiofrequency ablation
- Cryotherapy

The resident will develop and demonstrate knowledge of how to appropriately use and interpret diagnostic testing in Urology, including but not limited to:

- Urinalysis
- Semen analysis
- Prostatic fluid examination
- Biochemical serum studies
- Retrograde urethrography, cystography and pyleography
- Antegrade imaging of the kidneys and pelvic vessels
- Loopography
- Voiding cystourethrography
- Ultrasonography
- Radioisotope studies
- CT scans
- MRI scans
- Angiography
- Urodynamic studies
- Phalldynamics
- Interpretation of diagnostic histopathology

Communicator:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills Urologists use to effectively facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic changes that occur before, during and after the medical encounter. These include but are not limited to:

- Recognizing communication skills to be fundamental to delivery good care
- Establishing trust, respect, honesty and empathy
- Respect patient confidentiality, privacy and autonomy
- Listen effectively
- Recognize and be sensitive to nonverbal cues
- Facilitate a structured clinical encounter effectively

The resident will further develop and demonstrate communication skills exemplified by:

- Delivering information in a logical, direct and informative manner that is patient centered and encourages discussion
- Communicate bad news to patients empathically
- Respect patient diversity including race, sexual orientation, gender, religion and culture
- Engage patients in shared decision making
- Address challenging communication issues effectively such as the angry, anxious, confused patient for example
- Generate and maintain clear, concise and informative documentation for recordkeeping and for communication with other health care providers

- Present oral reports to peers, supervisors, other faculty or associated consultants / health care professionals in a clear and concise manner

Collaborator:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills Urologists use to work effectively within a health care team to achieve optimal patient care. These include but are not limited to:

- Understand and communicate the Urologists role to patients, and other health care providers
- Recognize and respect the diversity of roles, responsibilities and competencies of other professionals on the team
- Work with other team members to plan, provide and integrate care for patients
- Participate in interprofessional rounds / meetings
- Demonstrate a respectful attitude towards other colleagues
- Work with others to prevent and resolve conflict
- Demonstrate safe handover of care

Leader:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills Urologists use to make decisions about allocating resources, and contributing to the effectiveness of the health care system. These include but are not limited to:

- Work collaboratively with others in the organization
- Participate in quality improvement initiatives
- Describe principles of health care financing including physician remuneration, budgeting and organizational funding
- Manage time and priorities appropriately to balance patient care, education and personal life
- Demonstrate knowledge of issues related to running an office including staffing, billing and maintaining patient records
- Utilize information technology appropriately
- Understand resource restrictions and allocate urologic resources in a rational and cost effective manner
- Understand triaging surgical patients on a waitlist
- Participate in meetings / rounds and provide leadership when appropriate
- Understand and begin to implement the science of quality improvement to delivery of patient care
- Analyze patient safety incidents to enhance systems of care

Advocate:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills to influence and advance the health and well being of individual patients, communities and populations. These skills include but are not limited to:

- Identifying the health needs of individual, groups and populations of Urological patients
- Identify opportunities for health advocacy, health promotion and disease prevention

- Identify determinants of health of populations including barriers
- Identify vulnerable populations
- Describe an approach to health promotion on an individual, community, and population policy level
- Understand the dynamism that can occur between health advocacy and manager roles
- Understand the role of the Canadian urological association and other national, provincial or international groups in health advocacy in Urology

Scholar:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills Urologists use to achieve a lifelong commitment to reflective learning as well as the creation, dissemination and translation of medical knowledge. These include, but are not limited to:

- Describing principles of maintenance of competence
- Describing a personal knowledge management system
- Participate in scholarly activities for the purpose of improving patient care (QA, lab work, case reports, clinical trials, etc)
- Access and integrate new medical evidence into practice
- Demonstrate principles of critical appraisal
- Deliver effective presentations to patients, peers and other health professionals in evidence based manner
- Ensure patient safety is maintained when learners are involved

Professional:

The resident will develop and demonstrate skills Urologists demonstrate in the establishment of ethical practice, profession-led regulation, and high personal standards of behavior. These include but are not limited to:

- Exhibiting honesty, integrity, commitment, compassion, respect and altruism
- Demonstrate adherence to best practices
- Demonstrate meticulous documentation practices
- Recognize and manage ethical issues in practice
- Recognize and manage conflicts of interest in practice
- Maintain appropriate boundaries with patients
- Participate in Canadian and international professional organizations in Urology
- Understand and fulfill the regulatory and legal obligations required of current practice
- Balance professional and personal life commitments appropriately
- Demonstrate a commitment to patient safety and quality improvement

These competencies will be taught and assessed in the following ways:

1. Attending urologists will be knowledgeable of the rotation goals and objectives and will be motivated to ensure each resident has sufficient exposure to clinical material.
2. High volume of consultations in clinics where residents will be the initial contact.
3. Review of diagnostic testing, radiology, surgical indications, issues related to informed consent, procedural complications and various technical considerations with the attending urologist.
4. Real-time teaching and assessment of technical skills during procedures.
5. Written ITER at the end of each block.
6. Face-to-face feedback (in real time) throughout the rotation and at the end of the block.
7. Residents will be required to work closely with community nurses, family practitioners, patients and families to help patients transit through the health care system. The attending surgeon will evaluate their interaction with the various healthcare providers.
8. The residents will receive particular instruction on the importance of clear and constructive communication with family practitioners to optimize patient care. Dictated reports and direct verbal communication with referring physicians will be emphasized and carefully discussed between attending urologist and resident.
9. Using case-based teaching as it arises during the course of each clinic, the resident will receive explicit instruction on many aspects of practice management, including:
 - Appropriate billing of the Medical Services Plan.
 - Hiring office staff and maintaining a payroll.
 - Maintaining job satisfaction among office staff.
 - Maintaining medical records.
 - Use of electronic medical records.
 - Issues related to office space and rental agreements.
 - Medical incorporation.
10. Using case-based teaching as it arises during the course of each clinic, the resident will receive explicit instruction on the cost effective use of diagnostic tests.
11. Using case-based teaching, as it arises during the course of each clinic, the resident will receive explicit instruction on prioritizing patients waiting for surgery.

At the completion of the Ambulatory Clinic rotation, the resident will be capable of explaining any relevant procedures to patients and families in order to obtain informed consent. The resident will be knowledgeable regarding the indications, contraindications, potential complications (both common and serious) of each procedure and be able to apply this knowledge to a patient while considering the patient's preferences, concerns and associated medical conditions.