Department of Emergency Medicine  
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Goals and Objectives for Off-Service Residents

Preamble

Residents from a wide variety of specialties are required to include rotations in the emergency department as part of their training. While residents in the emergency medicine residency programs (CCFP-EM and FRCP-EM) spend the bulk of their training in emergency departments, residents in programs other than emergency medicine (i.e. “off service” residents) typically have a single rotation in the emergency department, and thus have a limited time to gain a clinical experience that will be meaningful to their subsequent training and practice.

This purpose of this document is to provide a series of goals and objectives, consistent with the CanMEDS framework, to ensure that all residents rotating through the emergency department, regardless of their specialty, will obtain an understanding of the evaluation and treatment of patients with undifferentiated medical conditions.

Rotation Goals and Objectives

Medical Expert

Goal: Off-service residents on Emergency Medicine work towards developing 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 for common patient presentations in the emergency department.

Objectives:

1. Participate in the direct care of patients presenting with undifferentiated complaints in an emergency department setting.
2. Demonstrate the use of a focused history and physical examination, and select diagnostic testing strategies appropriate to the emergency department setting.
3. Develop a systematic approach to patient care, including assessment of stability, differential diagnosis, the ordering of appropriate laboratory and radiologic diagnostic imaging tests, formulation of treatment plans, and timely disposition.
4. Understand the importance of vital signs as an indication of stability.
5. Perform basic physician procedures, including but not limited to wound repair, airway management, reduction of selected dislocations, abscess drainage.
6. Understand the concepts of resuscitation and be able to under supervision, initiate the resuscitation of critically and injured patients
7. Demonstrate an understanding of basic life support (BLS) procedures, including basic airway management, mask ventilation and CPR.
8. Demonstrate an understanding of advanced cardiac life support (ACLS).
9. Demonstrate an understanding of the care of patients presenting with acute traumatic injuries, including those requiring resuscitation.
10. Demonstrate an understanding of the need for rapid diagnosis and definitive care in patients presenting with time-sensitive problems, such as acute myocardial infarction, stroke and sepsis.
11. Demonstrate an understanding of the need for appropriate follow-up and ongoing care in patients discharged from the emergency department.

Communicator

Goal: As Communicators, physicians attempt to facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during, and after the medical encounter.

To provide high-quality care, off service residents on Emergency Medicine rotations establish relationships with patients, other physicians, and other health professionals. Communication skills are essential for the functioning of a physician in the Emergency Department, and are necessary for obtaining information from, and conveying information to patients and their families.

Objectives:

1. Communicate and interact effectively with all members of the healthcare team in order to facilitate good patient care.
2. Communicate effectively with patients and their families regarding the nature of the presenting complaint, the investigations and treatment plan.
3. Maintain clear, accurate, and appropriate records.

Collaborator

Goal: As Collaborators, physicians effectively work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

The off-service resident in Emergency Medicine is characterized as a collaborator who works in partnership with others as a member of an interdisciplinary team to reach a common goal. Depending on the task at hand, the collaboration may include, besides the resident, patients and their families, the supervising Emergency Physician, other physicians (primary care and specialist), allied health professionals, community organizations, alternative care providers, administrative bodies, researchers, and educators.

Objectives:

1. Understand the appropriate use of consultants in facilitating patient care. This includes knowing what investigations are appropriate prior to contacting consultants, knowing who the most appropriate consultants are for select patients,
and what information to communicate to a consultant in order to best utilize the consultant’s expertise and resources.

2. Demonstrate an appreciation of the unique interaction of the emergency department with every component of the health care system including the hospital, its relationship to the community, and other agencies such as emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement and social work.

Manager

Goal: As Managers, physicians are integral participants in healthcare organizations, organizing sustainable practices, making decisions about allocating resources, and contributing to the effectiveness of the healthcare system.

Off service residents in Emergency Medicine function as managers when they make decisions involving the resources required to provide care to multiple patients. These resources include, but are not limited to diagnostic procedures, medications, equipment, emergency department beds, and the need for consultants.

Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of resource allocation based on evidence of the benefit to individual patients and the population served.
2. Demonstrate an appreciation of the particular circumstances that foster positive relationships between the Emergency Department, the hospital and the community.
3. Manage concomitantly a reasonable number of patients at any given time with a view to both providing these patients with excellent care and understanding the factors influencing the continued smooth flow of patients through an Emergency Department.
4. Demonstrate understanding of important high-risk medico-legal situations pertaining to Emergency Medicine.

Health Advocate

Goal: As Health Advocates, physicians responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities, and populations.

Off service residents in Emergency Medicine recognize the importance of advocacy activities in responding to the challenges represented by those social, environmental, and biological factors that determine the health of both individual patients and society as a whole. They recognize advocacy as an essential and fundamental component of health promotion that occurs both at the level of the individual patient and the practice population.
Objectives:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the most important determinants of health (i.e., poverty, unemployment, early childhood education, social support systems) to common problems and conditions encountered in Emergency Medicine.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of these concepts as applied to the management of individual patients including assessing the patient's ability to access various services in the health and social system.
3. Recognize those issues, settings, circumstances, or situations in which advocacy on behalf of patients, the profession, or society is appropriate. These circumstances may include victims of violence, underserviced populations, culturally diverse populations and the elderly.

Scholar

Goal: As Scholars, physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to learning, as well as the creation, dissemination, application and translation of medical knowledge.

Off service residents in Emergency Medicine function as scholars whether they are learning new knowledge from personal continuing education, applying knowledge to their daily practice or sharing knowledge with those related to their practice. Interpretation of new information requires critical appraisal skills, as well as the capacity to assess clinical applicability.

Objectives:

1. Acquire new knowledge and apply it in an evidence-based fashion to clinical practice in the emergency department.
2. Demonstrate interest in new knowledge acquisition, including the ability to ask insightful and relevant questions during clinical practice.
3. Become aware of resources capable of providing comprehensive information to patients pertinent to illness or injury treated in the emergency department.
4. Pose an appropriate patient-related question, execute a systematic search for evidence, and critically evaluate medical literature and other evidence in order to optimize clinical decision-making.

Professional

Goal: As professionals, physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, profession-led regulation, and high personal standards of behaviour.

In the emergency department physicians are faced with the challenge of rapidly developing a caring, trusting and respectful professional relationship with patients whom
they have just met and will interact with for a limited period of time. In addition to fulfilling the professional obligations to their patients, off service residents in Emergency Medicine have a vital role as professionals by developing a comprehensive understanding of the relationship between their own specialties and the emergency department, as well as with all other specialties with which the residents collaborate within the emergency department.

**Objectives:**

1. Be responsible, reliable, and accountable for personal actions.
2. Maintain and enhance appropriate knowledge, skills and professional behaviours related to racial, cultural, and societal issues that impact on the delivery of care in the emergency department.
3. Foster an atmosphere of trust and respect between all members of the health care team, including emergency department staff and consultants.

**Conclusion**

In addition to the above goals and objectives, residents should be cognizant of what aspects of emergency department care might be applicable to their own specialties. This does not mean that residents should primarily see patients with complaints relating to their own specialties. (In fact, residents should be discouraged from preferentially seeing patients with complaints relevant to their own specialties.) Instead, residents should endeavour to see a wide variety of patient complaints, in order to better understand how to approach clinical problems not directly related to their own specialties that might arise in their clinical practice.

**Evaluation**

Resident performance is reviewed by the attending Emergency Physician/preceptor or site director. Daily evaluations are completed at the end of each shift. Written mid-rotation evaluations are completed and discussed with the resident. An ITER (In Training Evaluation Report) will be completed at the conclusion of the rotation and discussed with the resident.