



Goals & Objectives

Preamble

The general objective of our rural and community surgery rotations is to provide the General Surgery residents with an opportunity to learn and practice in an environment, which is different from the major urban teaching hospitals (tertiary care hospitals).

In the Province of Quebec, the Collège des Médecins du Québec mandates that senior residents spend some time in rural areas, to become familiar with all aspects of practice in an environment in which technical, medical, and allied health resources may not be as readily available. This rotation allows residents to discover disease processes not usually seen in referral centers, and to explore the different dynamic pathways involved in caring for these patients.

MEDICAL EXPERT

During their rural and community surgery rotations, the residents are expected to:

- Develop an appreciation for the advantages and limitations of surgical practice in that environment.
- Develop independent decision-making in the absence of:
 - Technological resources
 - Medical resources that are readily available in tertiary care centers.
- Obtain maximal exposure to diseases (diagnosis, management) not usually seen in tertiary centers.

Knowledge (General Clinical)

The resident will gain an appreciation of the breadth of surgery being performed. As such the knowledge per say is the same as that gained on the general surgery services of the city hospitals with the prevision that the resident will need to learn how to practice surgery with limited resources (i.e.: radiologic and critical care).

The resident should be able to interpret CT Scans of the brain, chest, abdomen and pelvis independently.

Specific Clinical Problems

By the end of the rotation the resident should be able to manage

- An acute abdomen
- Gastrointestinal bleeding
- Jaundice
- Abdominal masses
- A neck mass
- A pulmonary nodule
- Hernias
- Breast lesions



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- Soft tissue infections
- Hematuria
- Urinary retention
- Skin lesions

In addition the resident should become familiar with the

- Indications for emergency C-section
- Management of ectopic pregnancy
- Management of incomplete abortion
- Management of common factors
- Describe the pathology and pathophysiology of atherosclerotic plaques

Technical

The resident should be able to

- Manage wounds in the ambulatory setting
- Drain superficial abscesses, cleanse and repair injured tissues
- Remove foreign bodies
- Drain effusions, place chest tubes
- Perform superficial biopsies
- Perform selected closed reductions of dislocations and fractures
- Apply a sound cast
- Demonstrate safe operative skills
- Perform Endoscopy
- Perform basic laparoscopic procedures

COMMUNICATOR

Residents are expected to demonstrate communication skills in the following areas:

1. Establish a trusting relationship with patients and their families in a community hospital
2. Understand the impact of the community on the patient

COLLABORATOR

Residents will be able to demonstrate their collaboration in the following areas:

1. Understand that in a community hospital, the collaboration with family physicians both inside and outside the OR is crucial
2. Understand the limitations in the potential to consult other services in a community hospital



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MANAGER

Upon completion the resident will be able to:

1. Explore the possibility of planning for a rural or community practice, and of planning the rest of their residency to meet the needs required in these areas of practice
2. Learn to manage patients within the limited resources of a community hospital
3. Learn when and how to transfer patients for care to tertiary faculties

HEALTH ADVOCATE

The resident will be able to

1. Recognize the particular importance of being a health advocate in a community hospital
2. Respond to the particular community's health needs

SCHOLAR

Residents will be able to demonstrate their scholarly approach to medical practice in the following way

1. Help the surgeons in the community hospital discuss the latest papers in the literature
2. Learn to bring evidence-based surgery into the community hospital
3. Encourage Journal Clubs, use of the internet

PROFESSIONAL

Residents will be able to demonstrate their professionalism in the following way

1. Learn to practice medicine with integrity and honesty
2. Learn to respect the particular needs of the community physicians and patients
3. Learn to continually assess one's medical practice in order to improve it.

