

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF CLINICAL SERVICES

Resident services are, in most cases, organized in teams comprising a senior level resident and one or two junior residents. Some specialty rotations (neurosurgery) are assigned to one resident.

ATTENDING SURGEON RESPONSIBILITY

Supervisory Surgeons

Attending surgeons are ultimately responsible for all aspects of patient care. They provide direction and supervision of residents, but never relinquish responsibility.

Operating Room Supervision

In accordance with hospital and Department of Surgery by-laws, the attending surgeon **must** be present in the operating suite during surgery. The extent of resident participation in the operative procedure is at the discretion of the attending surgeon with due consideration of the resident's capabilities and the operation being performed.

Extent of Responsibility

The attending surgeon is responsible for all resident activities including supervision of all emergency room admissions and procedures, consultations, emergency and elective admissions and invasive procedures performed by residents.

RESIDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

Clinical Rotation

The resident is expected to participate with the operating room team to assist in safely preparing the patient for surgery and transfer to the recovery room. The resident's primary responsibility is the care of the patient. As part of the educational experience, residents are expected to assist in the placement of appropriate monitoring catheters and invasive lines. Adequate documentation and charting, along with post-operative orders, remain the resident's priority for patient care and resident education. **POST OP NOTES AND POST OP ORDERS MUST BE COMPLETED AT THE END OF THE SURGICAL PROCEDURE (NOT BEFORE THE CASE STARTS)**

Trauma Code Responsibility

The chief resident on call will be responsible to attend **all** Trauma Activations (100 and 200). The only exception should be in the event that the resident is participating in another operative procedure that requires his or her attention. The chief resident is expected to evaluate the patient preoperatively, review x-rays, and confirm the diagnosis before entering the operating room. This policy includes all assigned working nights and weekend call schedules.

Senior Resident Participation

The senior resident is responsible for evaluation of all emergency room patients referred to the surgical service, all consultations, and evaluation of all elective surgery patients for the service. All patients entering the hospital system through any of the above-mentioned avenues are to be seen within one hour by the senior resident, who must report the admission to the attending surgeon within 2 hours of the patient's arrival at the institution. Through this mechanism, patient care will be maintained at a high standard, and the educational opportunity of the senior resident will be fostered through independent evaluation and complete supervision of his/her clinical activities.

Daily teaching rounds will be conducted by the senior resident on the service. During these rounds, he/she will see all patients and consultations assigned to the service. These will be conducted at a time convenient for the attending surgeon and the senior resident.

Updates of patient conditions will be conveyed personally by the senior resident to the attending surgeon on a daily basis.

In the **Operating Room** the senior resident will initiate surgery only with the attending surgeon in the operating suite unless life-threatening circumstances supersede (e.g. ruptured abdominal aortic aneurysm).

Through these mechanisms, adequate supervision and independent graded responsibility will be available to the senior resident.

Junior Resident Participation

The junior resident will participate in all of the above-mentioned activities of the service. He/She will be responsible for reporting all clinical interactions to the senior resident, who is to be kept informed regarding the status of the patients under his/her care.

NIGHTS/WEEKENDS/EMERGENCIES**Attending Surgeon Responsibility**

The attending surgeon on call is responsible for night, weekend, and emergency procedures. Emergency procedures include all unscheduled admissions and operations performed.

Senior Resident Responsibility

The senior resident responsible for the service will contact the attending surgeon and present the case to the attending surgeon. Patients admitted during the night, weekend, and emergency coverage, will remain under care of the admitting surgeon and the residents assigned to that surgeon's service.