

VA JUNIOR RESIDENT ROTATION GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The Veterans Administration offers the resident the opportunity to develop confidence in their clinical decision skills by allowing them to function with more autonomy under the close supervision of an attending physician. The junior resident assigned to the Veterans Administration Hospital shall during their three-month rotation achieve the following skills.

Patient care skills to be developed include the ability

1. To develop the ability to take a complete history including co-morbid conditions and complete a thorough physical examination in an efficient manner.
2. At each stage in the planning process to explain treatment methods and goals to patients and their families, and to communicate effectively the clinical needs to the other members of the care team.
3. To become confident in the clinical evaluation of patients under treatment and in follow-up.

Medical knowledge requirements include demonstrating the ability:

4. To develop a comprehensive understanding of the literature and current clinical research in tumors commonly seen in the PVAMC particularly prostate cancer, including the effects of co-morbid conditions on treatment plans. The senior resident will be responsible for head and neck cancers and the junior resident will treat most of the prostate cancers. The remaining cancers (lung, GI, CNS, breast, etc.) will be divided between the junior and senior residents on a case by case basis.
5. Because many patients are referred to this facility from institutions that may not have cancer programs or have comprehensive cancer services, the trainee will determine the appropriate pretreatment evaluations and diagnostic studies, arrange for the studies to be completed, and track the results
6. To integrate the information obtained to determine the potential effects of both uncontrolled tumor and treatment and will use this information in the development of a treatment plan.

Practice based learning improvement will be demonstrated by the ability:

7. To define the planning target volume (PTV) and treatment constraints for 3D conformal radiation therapy for presentation to the attending for approval.
8. These “contouring” should be performed in a timely manner and well in advance of each patient’s scheduled simulation appointment.
9. To complete conventional simulation including the use of immobilization devices and treatment aids.
10. To complete 8 prostate brachytherapy procedures and help coordinate the follow-up care

The development of communication skill requires the resident demonstrate the ability:

11. To work with medical physics and dosimetry in developing a useable treatment plan.
12. To work with nursing, nutrition, and social service to assure that the patients personal needs are met during treatment

The resident will accomplish the above tasks while demonstrating:

13. Adherence to a high standard of ethical and professional behavior and to conduct themselves in a manner that inspires confidence and trust in patients and their families as well as other members of the cancer care team.

The resident will demonstrate an understanding of health system issues and coordination of care during this time with the ability:

14. To take a leadership position in coordinating the team's relations with other oncologic specialties to develop multidisciplinary treatment plans to optimize the care delivered.
15. To work with system constraints to assure appropriate use of resources and personnel to improve efficiency in the system to maximize the potential amount of care delivered and to optimize the care of all patients.

The above stated goals and objectives are to be reviewed by the resident prior to the start of the rotation.