GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR PGY1 CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY RESIDENT
ON THE HEART FAILURE/TRANSPLANT SERVICE

Description:
While on the Heart Failure service, residents will learn how to perform a basic cardiovascular
history and physical, providing exposure to cardiology patients with common physical
findings/heart sounds. Residents will also become more proficient in reading swan tracing,
interpreting right heart cath numbers, interpreting echocardiograms, management of acute, acute
on chronic and chronic heart failure; titrating heart failure medications. Importantly, residents
will be exposed to the medical treatment of cardiovascular conditions, particularly heart failure.

(1) Medical Knowledge
1. Congestive heart failure (acute and chronic), including inotropes titration, ventricular
assist devices, and indications for transplant.
2. Arrhythmias (atrial fibrillation, atrial flutter, supraventricular and ventricular tachycardia,
and bradyarrhythmias) including ability to interpret ECG, understand ACLS protocols,
indications for catheter ablation, and surgical treatment options/indications.
3. Pericarditis (viral, bacterial, Dressler's syndrome) including acute, constrictive, and
restrictive.
5. Understand diagnostic and prognostic evaluation of valvular regurgitation and stenosis,
including medical, interventional, and surgical treatment options.
6. Interpretation of echocardiograms
7. Interpretation of PA catheter readings and ability to make appropriate intervention to
improve systemic perfusion/oxygen delivery.
8. Knowledge of the indications, mechanisms, and interactions/side effects of commonly
used drugs in the CCU setting, including epinephrine, nesynephrine, norepinephrine,
dobutamine, dopamine, milrinone, vasopressin, nitroglycerine, nipride, and nitric oxide.

(2) Clinical Skills
1. Take a relevant history.
2. Perform an adequate physical examination, recognizing common physical findings
associated with structural and valvular disease, including AS, AI, MS, MR, HOCM, TR.
3. Arrive at an acceptable differential diagnosis.
4. Order appropriate laboratory, radiologic, and other diagnostic procedures demonstrating
knowledge in the interpretation of these investigations.
5. Arrive at a reasonable plan of management, demonstrating knowledge of the medical,
interventional, and surgical management of the disease process.
6. Manage the patient from presentation in the emergency room and throughout the CCU
stay.

(3) Patient Care
1. Placement of central venous lines (internal jugular, subclavian, and femoral) and arterial
lines (radial and femoral).
2. Perform endotracheal intubation.
3. Placement of IABP and troubleshoot and manage pump.
4. Perform elective or emergent cardioversion.

(4) Professionalism
1. The ability to be honest, reliable, and respectful of the religious, racial, and gender
communications of patients, their families and other members of the health care team.
2. The ability to give and receive advice in a manner that is consistent with the harmonious
operation of a health care team.
3. The ability to recognize when to seek assistance from more experienced colleagues.
4. Deliver highest quality care with ethics, integrity, honesty, and compassion.
5. Exhibit appropriate personal and interpersonal professional behaviors.
6. Understand the professional, legal, and ethical codes to which physicians are bound.

(5) Interpersonal and Communication Skills
1. Listen effectively.
2. Establish therapeutic relationship with patients and families.
3. Obtain and synthesize relevant history from patients and family.
4. Inform patients and families about their condition at an appropriate and understandable
level.
5. Write clear consultation notes, progress notes, discharge summaries, and clinic notes.
6. Prepare and present ward rounds in an organized manner.
7. Participate actively in scheduled rounds.
8. Communicate effectively with allied health care professionals.

(6) Systems-based Practice
1. Utilize resources effectively to balance patient care and learning needs.
2. Allocate finite health care resources wisely.
3. Work effectively and efficiently in a health care organization.
4. Understand the importance and mechanisms to safely utilize resources in a cost-effective
manner to benefit all patients.
5. Recommend practices to effectively utilize resources including undertaking studies to
assess effectiveness of standard care procedures.

(7) Practice-Based Learning and Improvement
1. Develop effective self-directed learning strategies for continuing education and
assessment of knowledge base.
2. Critically appraise sources of medical information and be aware of resources available.
3. Read around clinical cases.
4. Prepare and present scheduled rounds.
5. Participate actively in scheduled morbidity and mortality conferences.
6. Participate effectively in facilitate learning of patients, teaching housestaff/medical
students and other health professionals.

Method of assessment of resident academic performance
1. End of rotation online evaluation
2. Yearly in-service training exam.
3. Bi-annual case log review