

Surgery Rotation Manual

Rotation Description

This is a core rotation designed to give students an introduction to the evaluation and management of surgical patients. Students will spend time in both the inpatient (hospital and operating rooms) and outpatient (clinic) environments, and will work with patients seeking pre-, intra-, and post-operative care and counseling. Students will work with clinical preceptors and the Bethel PA program clinical team to coordinate adequate student exposure to minimum requirements for diagnoses and procedures. Each student will complete this rotation at least once during the clinical year to provide students sufficient training in the surgical setting.

Preceptor Requirements

Board Certified Surgeon, NCCPA Certified PA, or Certified NP (B3.05 & B3.06)

Course Topics

- Gastrointestinal/nutrition (17%)
- Cardiovascular (15%)
- Pulmonary/thoracic surgery (13%)
- Breast surgery (10%)
- Dermatologic (10%)
- Renal/genitourinary (8%)
- Trauma/acute care (8%)
- Neurologic/neurosurgery (7%)
- Pain medicine/anesthesia (7%)
- Endocrine

Required Minimum Exposures

Students should see the listed diagnoses and perform the listed procedures during this rotation and will be expected to document a minimum of 90% of all minimum exposures by the end of the clinical year, prior to the Summative Skills Stations (completed at the end of Spring term). Additionally, at the end of the rotation, students will complete the Clinical Student Self-assessment form, which summarizes their overall completion of minimum exposures, and describes where they might achieve any remaining exposures in the coming rotations.

Procedures (Perform/Participate)

Bladder Catheterization

Hospital Discharge Planning
Incision and Drainage
Post-Operative Care/PACU
Postoperative Complication Mgmt
Postoperative Follow Up Visit
Postoperative Pain Management
Preoperative Assessment
Preoperative Counseling/Education
Removal of Sutures or Staples
Scrub/Assist Intra-Operatively

Surgery: Rotation Learning Outcomes

At the end of this course, the successful PA student will demonstrate competency in the following by achieving minimum scores as detailed in the course syllabus:

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate acquisition of medical knowledge necessary to provide pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care to patients (K1)
2. Assess laboratory and imaging test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making (K2)
3. Provide effective and patient-centered counseling and education to all patients in the surgical medicine setting (K3)
4. Provide effective and patient-centered surgical care to children, adolescents, adult and elderly in the surgical medicine setting (K3)

Clinical and Technical Skills

5. Demonstrate appropriate history taking and physical exam skills when providing surgical care including children, adolescents, adult and elderly patients (CT1)
6. Appropriately perform pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative clinical procedures within the scope of the surgical physician assistant role (CT3)
7. Clinical Reasoning
8. Assimilate clinical data to develop differentials, diagnoses, and plans for patients, using evidence-based principles for surgery (CR1)
9. Utilize appropriate medical resources for the delivery of patient-centered care in the surgical medicine setting (CR2)

Interpersonal Skills

10. Establish professional relationships and communication skills with patients across the lifespan, preceptors, and clinical staff (IP1, IP2)

Professional Behaviors

11. Assess ethical dilemmas encountered when in clinic, including analysis of how the patient and provider's worldview or faith perspective impacted the situation (PB1)
12. Demonstrate understanding of the PA profession, including ethical, legal, and regulatory guidelines for practicing (PB2)
13. Appropriately complete professional administrative requirements for each rotation including logging in the electronic tracking system and submitting required evaluations (PB2)

Rotation Grading

Please see Student Handbook for academic and progression requirements. Students in clinical rotation courses must achieve an 80% on all course assessments. Failure to achieve 80% or higher on an assessment will result in referral to the Progress and Remediation Committee.

ASSESSMENT TOOL	COURSE OUTCOME MEASURED
End of Rotation Exam*	1 – Medical Knowledge 2 – Lab and imaging 3 – Patient-centered care 4 – History & Physical Exam 5 – Clinical procedures 6 – Assimilate clinical data/DDx 8 – Professional relationships and communication
Final Preceptor Evaluation	All LO
Self-Assessment with DOP log and patient logging	All LO
Clinical Forum Posts, Self-Assessment, and Assignments	9 – Ethical decision-making 10 – Understanding of PA profession 11 – Professional administrative tasks
Completing Administrative Requirements (Pt Logs, preceptor email, site eval)	11 – Professional administrative tasks

* A sliding scale will be used for grading the PAEA EOR exam, based upon national data – see Clinical Education Handbook. All requirements must be completed no later than 10pm the day following the EOR Exam. Students who fail to meet this deadline will receive a grade of incomplete, which may result in repeating the rotation.

Surgery Rotation Instructional Objectives

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate acquisition of medical knowledge necessary to provide pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative care to patients
2. Integrate biomedical science knowledge with patient case scenarios to optimize patient outcomes
3. NCCPA End-of-Rotation Exam Blueprint for EOR provides guidelines for topics and relative weight
 - a. Pass the End-of-Rotation exam with an adjusted score of 80% or higher
 - i. Exam Blueprint Below (Current at time of publication)

Surgery 100-Question Exam	History & Physical	Diagnostic Studies	Diagnosis	Clinical Intervention	Clinical Therapeutics	Scientific Concepts	Professional Practice	Totals
	17%	17%	20%	20%	11%	7%	8%	100%
Gastrointestinal/nutrition (17%)	3	3	3	4	2	1	1	17
Cardiovascular (15%)	2	3	4	3	1	1	1	15
Pulmonary/thoracic surgery (13%)	2	2	3	2	1	1	2	13
Breast surgery (10%)	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	10
Dermatologic (10%)	2	2	2	2	1	1	0	10
Renal/genitourinary (8%)	1	1	2	2	1	1	0	8
Trauma/acute care (8%)	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	8
Neurologic/neurosurgery (7%)	1	1	1	2	1	0	1	7
Pain medicine/anesthesia (7%)	2	0	1	1	1	0	2	7
Endocrine	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	5
TOTALS	17	17	20	20	11	7	8	100

The Surgery End of Rotation™ Exam is developed with perioperative setting targets to ensure the exam is inclusive of the types of cases PAs may see. The table below represents targets set for the entire exam, across the content and task areas:

Perioperative Setting	Percent
Preoperative	35%
Intraoperative	25%
Postoperative	40%

(Updated: 9/4/2024)

PAEA Exam Topic List:

<https://paeaonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Surgery-Topic-List-2023.pdf>

Clinical and Technical Skills

4. Demonstrate appropriate history taking and physical exam skills when providing pre-operative and post-operative care for the surgical patient across the lifespan
 - a. Screen for medical conditions consistent with the patient’s age, gender, risk factors, and presentation
 - b. Conduct patient histories appropriate for acuity of care
 - i. Acute
 1. Recognize and efficiently approach emergent patients

2. Identify “red flag” factors in a patient’s presentation
 3. Appropriately prioritize multi-purpose visits
 4. Utilize a staged diagnostic approach to address the differential
 - ii. Chronic
 1. Identify co-morbidities and incorporate past knowledge of patient
 2. Elicit history from specialists or other providers who may have knowledge of patient
 3. Assess patient’s understanding of the chronic condition and general approach to management
5. Perform clinical and technical skills, including physical exams and pre-operative, intra-operative, and post-operative procedures, safely and effectively
 - a. Obtain and/or verify informed consent prior to performing any invasive procedure
 - b. Identify key indications, contraindications, and risk factors for any procedures performed such as bladder catheterization and incision/drainage of lesions
 - c. Log all completed procedures to demonstrate safe and effective performance
 - d. Protect the modesty of the patient during exams as much as possible
 - e. Differentiate between normal and abnormal findings on exam, and use information to guide remainder of patient interaction
 - f. Demonstrate correct utilization of diagnostic equipment necessary for the practice setting
 - g. Demonstrate proper technique for the clinical skill of bladder catheterization
 - h. Demonstrate proper technique for the clinical skill of incision and drainage
 - i. Demonstrate proper technique for the clinical skill of the removal of sutures or staples
 - j. Protect patient safety, including positioning of patient, identifying fall risks, and maintaining clean and sterile technique when appropriate
 - k. Demonstrate correct pre-operative scrubbing technique in preparation for safe and useful assisting skills in the operating room
6. Appropriately document and deliver oral presentations of patient encounters
 - a. Perform clear verbal patient presentations that accurately reflect the patient’s condition
 - i. Present to other health care providers a brief synopsis of the patient’s present illness; pertinent positive and negative history, physical exam and diagnostic findings; assessment; and recommended diagnostic and therapeutic approach to caring for the patient.
 - ii. Deliver complete and concise oral presentations using professional language.
 - b. Communicate necessary information to complete patient transfers with other healthcare providers or caregivers
 - i. Incorporate during change in level of care, admission of a patient, discharge of a patient, transfer of care to another department, or a change in provider

- ii. Handoff communication includes, at a minimum, illness severity, patient summary, action list, contingency planning, and synthesis as a receiver of information
- c. Produce accurate written documentation of clinic interactions with patients in the SOAP format and hospital and operative documentation in appropriate format
- d. Complete documentation in a timely manner
- e. Enter every patient encounter into the Exxat tracking system to monitor progression and preparation for summative evaluation

Clinical Reasoning

- 7. Assess laboratory and radiological test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making for surgical care
 - a. Order tests demonstrating understanding of the practice setting, availability of tests, and acuity of the patient
 - b. Follow evidence-based guidelines for preventative care screenings and monitoring of chronic conditions
 - c. Utilize and compare with previous results whenever possible
 - d. Demonstrate consideration of test sensitivity, specificity, and practicality in decision-making process
- 8. Integrate clinical findings to develop differential diagnoses with appropriate assessments for surgical patients
 - a. Determine additional data elements required to make effective patient management decisions
 - b. Generate a differential including consideration of possible atypical presentations
 - c. Approach differential diagnoses with appropriate understanding of age-related diagnoses
- 9. Assimilate clinical data to develop treatment plans for patients, using evidence-based principles
 - a. Create management plans that address all key elements of the patient's history, physical exam, and other data sources available
 - b. Incorporate patient preferences and needs when developing treatment plans

Interpersonal Skills

- 10. Conduct patient education and counseling regarding pre-operative and post-operative care in an effective, empathetic, and culturally competent manner
 - a. Demonstrate effective interpersonal skills in all interactions
 - b. Utilize active listening skills during patient interactions
 - c. Approach patients with sensitivity to individual needs, understandings, and beliefs
 - d. Demonstrates a willingness to incorporate patient preferences during interaction
 - e. Approach culturally sensitive conversations with an awareness of individual needs and a curiosity to learn more about individual patients

- f. Identify obstacles to obtaining medical care, including barriers with insurance and cost, rural location, and mobility
 - g. Appropriately tailor education and counseling regarding all aspects of the patient's surgical care
 - i. Provide clear instructions and counseling in the pre-operative setting
 - ii. Provide accurate and useful information regarding the intra-operative procedure options
 - iii. Provide compassionate and accurate counseling during post-operative encounters
11. Establish professional interpersonal and communication skills with preceptors, clinical staff, and patients
- a. Relate professionally in a working situation with other members of the healthcare team
 - b. Demonstrates effective and professional conflict resolution skills
 - c. Conduct counseling appropriate for patient's age when applicable
 - i. Children and adolescents:
 - 1. Include patient and parent in the conversation as appropriate
 - 2. Use age-appropriate language to encourage participation and understanding
 - ii. Adults and elderly:
 - 1. Demonstrate respect for individual needs and preferences
 - 2. Establish good rapport with patients based on trust and open communication
 - 3. Identify necessary resources to manage complex medical needs
 - 4. Utilize SPIKES method, or other effective communication tool, when communicating difficult news with patients

Professional Behaviors

12. Assess ethical dilemmas encountered when in clinic, including analysis of how the patient and provider's worldview or faith perspective impacted the situation
- a. Identify potential points of conflict for patients and providers in the medical setting
 - b. Analyze ethical situations with appropriate consideration of legal and regulatory guidelines
 - c. Examine personal beliefs and impact on approach to practice
13. Demonstrate understanding of the physician assistant profession, including ethical, legal, and regulatory guidelines for practicing
- a. Demonstrate an openness to receive constructive criticism and incorporate feedback into future performance
 - b. Identify limitations and seek help from preceptor and appropriate reference materials
 - c. Maintain professional attitude and meet professional expectations such as regular attendance, punctuality, and dress code
 - d. Identify appropriate medical resources for obtaining information and guidance in the clinical decision-making process

14. Obtain required minimum experiences for the general surgery rotation (listed above), or create a plan for obtaining these experiences on subsequent rotations. A reasonable plan will be sufficient for completing the requirements for this rotation.
15. Conduct self-assessment of academic progress and clinical performance, demonstrating an understanding of their own limitations and biases, leading to appropriate professional development and help-seeking behavior
 - Accurately report progress toward learning outcomes and required minimum experiences and procedures
 - Develop a reasonable plan for obtaining any missed experiences
 - Identify gaps in knowledge and appropriate development activities related to these gaps
 - Thoughtfully assess their own performance in alignment with preceptor evaluation