

General Surgery Clerkship Manual

Bethel University Physician Assistant Program PHAS 710, 720, 730 (Clinical Field Placements I, II, & III)

The Student Clerkship Handbook and Clinical Field Placement syllabi expectations and requirements will be followed for grading requirements. Please refer to those documents for additional course information.

Rotation Purpose

The purpose of this 8-week rotation is to educate the physician assistant student in the evaluation, diagnosis, management, and treatment of common surgical problems encountered in a General Surgery practice, which may occur in inpatient or outpatient settings. Clinical experiences are intended to assist the student's transition from didactic to integrated clinical evaluation, decision-making, and management of patients with surgical problems. Students will learn pre and post-operative care of the surgical patient; the student will also obtain experience in the operation room through active participation in surgical cases. The student will perform minor surgical procedures and become educated in the management and overall care of the surgical patient.

Preceptor Requirements

Board Certified General Surgeon or Certified PA/NP working with a Board Certified General Surgeon

Clinical Field Placement Courses Objectives

At the end of this course, the successful PA student will demonstrate competency in the following by achieving minimum evaluation, assignment, and exam scores as detailed in the Bethel University PA Clinical Handbook and the Bethel University PA Student Handbook:

1. Demonstrate appropriate history taking and physical exam skills when caring for clinical patients under supervision.
2. Assess laboratory and radiological test results appropriately to aid in clinical decision making.
3. Assimilate clinical data to develop diagnoses and treatment plans for patients, using evidence-based principles.
4. Appropriately perform clinical and surgical procedures within the scope of the physician assistant role, under supervision of a preceptor.
5. Establish professional relationships and communication skills with patients, preceptors, and clinical staff.
6. Appropriately document patient encounters in the SOAP note format, as well as logging in the electronic tracking system and submitting patient profiles to course forum.
7. Complete written continuing education activities to demonstrate preparedness for lifelong licensure requirements.
8. Assess ethical dilemmas encountered when in clinic, including analysis of how the patient and provider's worldview or faith perspective impacted the situation.

Rotation-Specific Instructional Objectives

By the end of the rotation, assessed by preceptor evaluation, student logging and end of rotation examinations, the PA student will be able to (B1.09, B3.03a, B3.04a & B3.04c, and B3.07b):

1. Gather information, formulate differential diagnoses, and propose plans for the initial evaluation and management of patients with common presentations.
2. Demonstrate a sound approach to the evaluation and initial management of conditions routinely encountered in General Surgery.
3. Conduct an encounter that includes patients and families in the development of screening and treatment plans.
4. Utilize evidence-based medicine to determine cost-effective diagnostic evaluation of common acute and chronic presentations.
5. Assess specific classes of pharmacologic agents along with their indications, contraindications and side effect profiles.
6. Judge the criteria utilized to determine whether overnight hospitalization is required and the subsequent discharge criteria for a specific General Surgery diagnosis.
7. Discuss the influence of psychosocial factors on a patient's ability to provide a history and carry out a treatment plan.
8. Incorporate psychological issues into patient discussions and care planning.
9. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange between patients of all ages and professionals from other disciplines and other specialties.
10. Integrate their understanding of the professional aspects of the Surgical PA by showing respect, compassion, and integrity to all patients and providers.
11. Demonstrate ethical principles for provision/withholding clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and providing cost-effective health care and resource allocation without compromising quality.
12. Characterize the legal and regulatory roles of the Surgical PA.
13. Document and record information in the medical record that shows an understanding for the legal, medical, ethical, and financial aspects of quality medical care as it relates to the General Surgery patient.
14. Apply information technology to support patient care decisions and patient education when given a specific General Surgery disease or diagnosis.
15. Integrate evidence from scientific studies, apply knowledge of study design and statistical methods, apply information technology and access/evaluate on-line information as it relates to a specific General Surgery disease or diagnosis.
16. Synthesize and incorporate aspects of the Christian faith in the application and delivery of medical knowledge and clinical skills for patient care.

Surgery Rotation Minimum Exposures

Diagnosis	
Abdominal Pain/Acute Abdomen	
Bowel Obstruction	
Breast Mass	
Colorectal Disease	
Hepatobiliary Disease	
Hernia	
Soft Tissue Mass/Tumor	

Level 1 Procedures – must perform

Description	
Bladder Catheterization	
Incision and Drainage	
Pre-Operative Counseling/Consent	
Post-Operative Care/PACU	
Removal of Sutures or Staples	
Scrub/Assist Intra-Operatively	

Level 2 Procedures – must observe

Description	
Endoscopy	
Insertion of Nasogastric Tube	
Intubation (Endotracheal)	

Professional Development

1. Relate and perform professionally in a working situation with other members of the health care team.
2. Demonstrate an openness to receive constructive criticism.
3. Demonstrate a willingness to recognize limitations and seek help from supervising preceptors and appropriate reference materials.
4. Perform duties with a professional attitude in such areas as attendance, and dress code.
5. Demonstrate sensitivity to the emotional, social and ethnic background of patients.
6. Recognize the important role of the team of providers in the care of the elderly

7. Recognize the impact that distance from a referral center has on patient care.
8. Identify the obstacles to obtaining medical care for those who are uninsured.
9. Recognize the impact that poverty, setting or socioeconomic class of patient, may have on your treatment plan
10. Demonstrate understanding of end-of-life planning

Text(s): RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

Doherty, G.M. (2010). *Current Surgical Diagnosis and Treatment* (13th ed.) New York: McGraw Hill.

Silen, W. (2010). *Cope's Early Diagnosis of the Acute Abdomen*. (22nd ed.) New York: Oxford University Press.

Papadakis. M & McPhee, S. (2016) *Current Medical Diagnosis and Treatment* (52nd Edition), New York, N. Y.: McGraw Hill.