INTRODUCTION:

Residents are required to rotate through the Emergency Medicine Service for a minimum of 4 weeks and no more than 8 weeks. The resident will be exposed to the acute presentations of a variety of medical and surgical diseases. They will have the opportunity to spend time in both the acute emergency room and the Urgent Care part of the Emergency Department. The Riverside Community Hospital Internal Medicine Program allows the residents exposure to a large variety of emergent problems. Residents will see many acute care problems including injuries, gynecologic problems, otolaryngologic diseases, ophthalmologic disorders and dermatologic abnormalities.

The resident will acquire skills in triaging and prioritizing emergency care. The rotation is designed to provide the resident with an appreciation of the complexities of emergency care and the workings of a present day busy ER. The ability of a resident to understand the difficulties of functioning as an Emergency Medicine attending physician will enable a better working relationship between the ED and the admitting medical resident throughout the years of residency and in future careers.

As part of the rotation, the resident will have time allocated to the Anesthesiology Department where they will learn intubations and airway management. These skills are vital to the resident as they progress and lead the code blue / rapid response team.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES:

Patient Care

This rotation will provide the resident with the opportunity to evaluate and treat a wide range of ED patients by rapid assessment. Each resident will evaluate the patient and then discuss the patient’s history and physical examination with the ED attending physician. The differential diagnosis and test results will be reviewed with the ED attending physician to decide the appropriate disposition of the patient.

The resident will develop the ability to efficiently prioritize actions by the degree of importance and to manage time effectively while performing excellent patient care. Particular attention is paid to the initial stabilization and consideration of “the worst case scenario” differential diagnosis of patients presenting for emergency care.

By the end of this rotation, the PGY-3 residents are expected to:
- Obtain a precise, accurate and efficient history in the acute setting
- Perform a thorough and focused exam on an acutely ill patient
- Understand how the ED physician prioritizes patient problems according to severity to enable efficient care
- Become familiar with common ED procedures knowing their indications, contraindications, and risk/ benefit ratios
- Provide services aimed at prevention and maintenance of health when appropriate
- Consider patient preferences when making medical decisions
Medical Knowledge

The resident will learn to assess and treat a wide variety of conditions seen in the ED. The following subjects will be covered during the rotation:

- chest pain
- dyspnea
- altered mental status
- abdominal pain
- headache
- trauma
- fever
- wound care
- syncope
- poisoning and drug overdose
- hypertensive emergencies
- musculoskeletal disorders
- ophthalmologic problems
- acute gynecologic emergencies

By the end of this rotation, PGY-3 residents are expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic emergency disorders and their acute management
- Appreciate emergency protocols and understand their evidence-based need
- Recognize indications, contraindications and risks of commonly used medications and procedures
- Demonstrate an investigatory and analytic approach to clinical situations

Practice-Based Learning

Residents must be able to investigate and evaluate their patient care practices, appraise and assimilate scientific evidence, and improve their patient care practices.

Residents are expected to:

- analyze practice experience and perform practice-based improvement activities using a systematic methodology
- locate, appraise, and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients’ health problems
- obtain and use information about their population of patients and the larger population from which their patients are drawn
- apply knowledge of study designs and statistical methods to the appraisal of clinical studies and other information on diagnostic and therapeutic effectiveness
- use information technology to manage information, access on-line medical information, and support their education
- facilitate the learning of students and other health care professionals

By the end of this rotation, PGY-3 residents are expected to:

- Understand his or her limitations of knowledge in emergency care
- Conduct self-evaluation with insight as to the limitations of his/her knowledge of emergency care
- Facilitate the learning of students and other health care professionals within the ED
- Analyze personal practice patterns by applying ED protocols to the practice of internal medicine
- Compare personal practice patterns to larger populations through inquiry into the ED literature
- Appraise and assimilate scientific literature appropriate to emergency medicine
Interpersonal and Communication Skills

Residents must be able to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in effective information exchange and teaming with patients, their patients' families, and professional associates. Residents are expected to:

- create and sustain a therapeutic and ethically sound relationship with patients
- use effective listening skills and elicit and provide information using effective nonverbal, explanatory, questioning, and writing skills
- work effectively with others as a member or leader of a health care team or other professional group

By the end of this rotation, PGY-3 residents are expected to:

- Write pertinent and organized notes
- Document timely and legible medical records
- Use effective listening, narrative, and non-verbal skills to elicit and provide information
- Work effectively as a member of the health care team
- Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors with patients and families undergoing the stress of an emergent medical problem

Professionalism

Residents must demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to a diverse patient population. Residents are expected to:

- Demonstrate respect, compassion, and integrity; a responsiveness to the needs of patients and society that supersedes self-interest; accountability to patients, society, and the profession; and a commitment to excellence and on-going professional development
- Demonstrate a commitment to ethical principles pertaining to provision or withholding of clinical care, confidentiality of patient information, informed consent, and business practices
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to patients' culture, age, gender, and disabilities

By the end of this rotation, PGY-3 residents are expected to:

- Establish trust with patients and staff
- Treat all patients equally
- Show regard for opinions and skills of colleagues
- Demonstrate and apply knowledge of epidemiologic and social-behavioral sciences to the care of the patient
- Delegate responsibility to others
- Demonstrate commitment to ethical principles pertaining to the provision or withholding of care, patient confidentiality, and informed consent and business practices
- Acknowledge errors and work to minimize them

Systems-based Practice

Residents must demonstrate an awareness of and responsiveness to the larger context and system of healthcare and the ability to effectively call on Health System resources to provide care that is of optimal value.

Residents are expected to:

- Understand how their patient care and other professional practices affect other health care professionals, the health care organization, and the larger society and how these elements of the system affect their practice
- Know how types of medical practice and delivery systems differ from one another, including methods of controlling health care costs and allocating resources
• Practice cost-effective health care and resource allocation that does not compromise quality of care
• Advocate for quality patient care and assist patients in dealing with system complexities
• Know how to partner with health care managers and health care providers to assess, coordinate, and improve health care and know how these activities can affect system performance

By the end of this rotation, PGY-3 residents are expected to:
• Advocate for patients with a better understanding of the departments that are involved in the delivery of emergency care
• Demonstrate constructive skepticism when patterns of practice are anecdotal and not evidence-based
• Advocate for high-quality patient care based on evidence-based medicine
• Apply knowledge of how to partner with other health care providers to assess, coordinate and improve patient care
• Use systematic approaches to reduce errors
• Participate in developing ways to improve systems of practice and health management through awareness of committees involved in overseeing care in the ED
• Order and interpret results of procedures appropriately, considering the cost-benefit ratio
• Understand effective allocation of health care resources and develop practice patterns that will best utilize these finite resources