Internal Medicine Residency Program  
Competency-Based Goals and Objectives  
Neurology

Academic year: 2016-2017  
Site Location: SAGE Neurohospitalists Management Group  
Assigned Residents: PGY 1

INTRODUCTION

The importance of Neurology in the setting of primary care medicine is emphasized in this rotation that is a requirement of all residents. The resident will experience the common problems of patients with alterations in mental status, loss of consciousness, cerebrovascular disease and life-threatening infections and neoplasms of the central nervous system. The resident will develop and refine his/her skills in taking an accurate neurological history and performing a careful neurological examination. He/she should become competent in applying the laboratory and imaging tests available in a thoughtful, correct manner. It is important for the resident to develop the skills to handle neurological emergencies with skill and comfort.

EDUCATIONAL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Patient Care

The importance of accurate diagnosis will be stressed. The resident will have an opportunity to consider various therapeutic interventions and apply them appropriately to individual patients. Residents will perform detailed neurological examinations, review various test including imaging, EEG and laboratory tests.

PGY-1 residents are expected to:

- Gather essential, accurate information in interviews and physical exams and review other data in order to provide the basis for an informative and helpful consultation
- Prioritize patient problems in order to focus on the question asked by the referring physician
- Prioritize the work day to assure that emergency problems are taken care of appropriately
- Present cases to the attending faculty in an orderly, coherent manner
- Demonstrate thoughtful decision making in formulating a recommendation
- Monitor and follow up on patients appropriately
- Know indications, contraindications, and risks of invasive procedures
- Observe and perform neurological procedures under the supervision of the neurology faculty attending
- Provide services aimed at prevention and maintenance of health where appropriate to patients with neurologic diseases
- Recognize common neurologic abnormalities on imaging studies
- Master lumbar puncture technique and assist other residents as needed
- Function as an educational resource to residents on the House services who request consultations
- Develop management plans to a higher degree of finality and commit to a recommendation prior to presenting cases to the attending faculty
- Understand patients’ opinions regarding recommendations, particularly in regards to performing an invasive procedure
- Reason well in ambiguous situations
- Spend time appropriate to the complexity of the problem
- Understand the principles and be able to interpret basic electroencephalograms
Medical Knowledge

The resident will develop competency in the following topics:

- Cerebrovascular Disease
- Encephalopathy
- Stroke, TIA’s, and CNS hemorrhages
- Seizure
- Headache
- Dementia - Develop the ability to evaluate the severity of dementia, consider etiologies and formulate an appropriate plan to deal with the problems that this disease presents
- Multiple Sclerosis
- CNS infections
- Neurologic Manifestations of Systemic Medical Diseases
- Epilepsy - Skill in management of acute seizures and management of chronic problems related to epilepsy will be expected

Other common problems will be encountered depending on the individual caseload for a given month. The resident is expected to obtain basic knowledge in the management of headache, demyelinating diseases, movement disorders, neuropathies, and neoplasms.

PGY-1 residents are expected to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of neurology, particularly concerning physiology, diagnosis and treatment of strokes and other neurologic emergencies
- Know the evidence basis for decisions made in providing consultation
- Know the evidence regarding risk/ benefit ratio of the standard neurological procedures
- Know how to interpret the imaging studies utilized in diagnosing neurologic diseases
- Demonstrate an investigative and analytic approach to clinical situations

Practice-based Learning

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

- Locate, appraise and assimilate evidence from scientific studies related to their patients' neurological 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

PGY-1 residents are expected to:

- Understand his or her limitations of knowledge in formulating a consultation note
- Review plans with the attending, aware of the respect with which a consultative recommendation is held
- Acquire knowledge through self-motivated reading on each patient on whom the resident consults
- Use computerized sources of results and information to enhance patient care
- Accept feedback and develop self-improvement plans
- Read and discuss all articles or references proposed by the attending
• Conduct self-evaluation with high degree of insight
• Facilitate the learning of medical students and referring residents
• Analyze personal practice patterns systematically and strive to improve
• Compare personal practice patterns to larger populations
• Demonstrate commitment to on-going professional development by independent reading

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; 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

PGY-1 residents are expected to:
- Write pertinent and organized consultative notes, understanding the role of the consultant to provide timely and accurate answers to questions
- Be a resource for referring physicians providing prompt, thoughtful and correct responses to their questions
- Document recommendations with timely and well written medical notes
- Use effective listening, narrative, and non-verbal skills to elicit and provide information in patients with neurological disorders that make communication difficult
- Explain the rationale for recommended procedures, diagnostic tests and treatments to patients and their families
- Demonstrate caring and respectful behaviors with patients and families
- Provide education and counseling to patients, families and colleagues
- Discuss end of life care with patients/families
- Discuss the pros and cons and risk/benefit ratio of procedures with patients and families
- Provide a high-level resource for referring physicians, answering questions and providing information in a timely manner and facilitating communication between the referring physician and the attending faculty
- Understand and be able to assist families with the anguish and decisions in the case of brain death

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

PGY-1 residents are expected to:
- Establish trust as a consultant with patients and staff
- Respond promptly to requests for consultation regardless of the time of day and treat each consultation as important regardless of its nature
- Treat all patients equally
- Show regard for opinions and skills of colleagues being aware of his/her position as a neurology consultant
- Display initiative and leadership acting as a resource and role model for students and referring residents
- Demonstrate commitment to ethical principles pertaining to the provision or withholding of care in conformity with the beliefs and wishes of the patient
- Acknowledge errors and discuss them with patients in an honest, transparent manner

**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

PGY-1 residents are expected to:

- Apply knowledge of how to partner with other health care providers to assess, coordinate and improve patient care
- Practice effective allocation of health care resources in recommending diagnostic tests and treatment options
- Participate in developing ways to improve systems of practice and health management
- Understand how individual practices affect other health care professionals, organizations, and society
- Demonstrate knowledge of types of medical practice and delivery systems and how they affect the specialty of neurology