

Teaching and Evaluating Anesthesia Residents in the PACU Rotation

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Introduction:

The purpose of the PACU rotation is to provide the resident with the knowledge and technical skills needed to perform routine PACU and perioperative care.

Rotation Planning:

Prior to starting the rotation, the resident should be able to: (1) Perform a history and physical examination, order and review laboratory studies, and document these findings in the patient record; (2) Understand the pharmacology of pain management drugs; (3) Manage the patient's cardiovascular status, airway status, and PONV; (4) complete the required readings.

Didactic teaching:

(1) The formal didactic resident curriculum; (2) Recording and discussing details of four interesting cases; (3) Performing patient rounds and discussing topics specific to the patients' care daily with one of the attendings; (4) Attending two lectures on common PACU topics.

Evaluation Methods:

The resident is evaluated based on their ability to:

(1) Gather medical history, order tests, and make medical decision. (**patient care**); (2) Use their medical knowledge to solve PACU patients' medical problems. (**medical knowledge**); (3) Evaluate QI data and use this to provide suggestions for improvement of post anesthesia care outcome and teach this information to other residents and the PACU staff (**practice based learning**); (4) Provide bedside patient care in PACU with minimal faculty assistance and communicating with PACU nurses and surgical team. (**interpersonal and communication skills**); (5) explore the possible causes of the patient care problems and patient dissatisfaction in the PACU, making suggestions to reduce the dissatisfaction and facilitate more efficient care. (**systems based practice**). 360-degree evaluations from patients, PACU nurses, and PACU secretaries. (**professionalism**).

References:

1. ACGME outcome project: Enhancing residency education through outcomes assessment. Chicago, Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education, 2000.
2. A Resident Survey for PACU Education and Evaluation. *J Clin Anesth.* Dec; 15(8): 633-4. 2003