

GENERAL CARE NURSERY

First year Residents spend 1-2 months in the General Care Nursery. This rotation has required weekend responsibilities but no overnight in-house call. Residents are expected to come to the nursery at 7:00am in order to authorize infants for circumcision, become familiar with the new admissions, and gather all relevant laboratory data of mothers and infants.

They will present each case at Mother/Baby attending rounds or will assist the student with the presentation. They will attend nursery teaching conferences. All residents will read the packet of articles that is handed out at the start of the rotation. In addition, residents are to continue to attend his/her continuity clinic.

Goals, Objectives and Resident Responsibilities of the General Care Nursery Experience:

Patient Care: Residents are expected to provide patient care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the promotion of health, prevention of illness and treatment of disease. To that end, the residents will

- Gather accurate, essential information from all sources, including medical interviews, physical examinations, medical records and diagnostic/therapeutic procedures
- Make informed recommendations about preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic options and interventions that are based on clinical judgment, scientific evidence, and patient preference
- Develop, negotiate and implement effective patient management plans and integration of patient care
- Assume responsibility for the evaluation and care of infants which includes history-taking and communication with the mother, and assuring proper continuity of care after discharge

Medical Knowledge: Residents are expected to demonstrate knowledge of established and evolving biomedical, clinical and social sciences, and the application of their knowledge to patient care and the education of others. Residents will apply an open-minded, analytical approach to acquiring new knowledge, access and critically evaluate current medical information and scientific evidence and apply this knowledge to clinical problem-solving, clinical decision-making, and critical thinking. In the nursery, residents will

- Learn to evaluate newborn infants utilizing careful physical examination, maternal/gestational history and appropriate laboratory information, to distinguish well from ill infants, and to detect high-risk conditions
- Experience the primary care of apparently normal full-term infants or preterm neonates who weigh more than 2000g at birth and have demonstrated successful adaptation to extrauterine life
- Learn to recognize common minor anomalies, birth defects, and syndromes and to consult specialists when appropriate
- Become knowledgeable about breastfeeding and, in turn, teach new mothers about breastfeeding
- Learn about formula/bottle feeding
- Become familiar with the following topics during their time on the rotation through experience, didactic sessions or reading:

Circumcision: pros and cons; pain control
Common issues in prenatal diagnosis
Drugs and the fetus/newborn, drugs in breastmilk
Early discharge criteria
Effect of antenatal and intrapartum factors on the newborn
Gestational age assessment and disorders of intrauterine growth
Neonatal glucose metabolism
Neonatal jaundice; etiologies, evaluation, and management
Normal growth patterns for breastfeeding and formula feeding
Normal stool pattern for breastfeeding and formula feeding
Perinatal infectious diseases
Psychosocial factors/risks for child abuse
Routine procedures in newborn care
Safety issues/anticipatory guidance
State neonatal screening program; universal hearing program

Practice-Based Learning and Improvement: Residents are expected to be able to use scientific evidence and methods to investigate, evaluate, and improve patient care practices, and

- Identify areas for improvement and implement strategies to enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes and processes of care
- Analyze and evaluate practice experiences and implement strategies to continually improve the quality of patient practice
- Develop and maintain a willingness to learn from errors and use errors to improve the system or processes of care
- Use information technology or other available methodologies to access and manage information, support patient care decisions and enhance both patient and physician education
- Participate in teaching third year medical students (under the supervision of the attending physician) during their clinical rotation, including reviewing and countersigning the students work-ups

Interpersonal and Communication Skills: Residents are expected to demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that enable them to establish and maintain professional relationships with patients, families, and other members of health care teams, and

- Learn to provide effective and professional consultation to other physicians and health care professionals and sustain therapeutic and ethically sound professional relationships with patients, their families, and colleagues
- Document the history and physical of each neonate on the newborn case record
- Use effective listening, nonverbal, questioning, and narrative skills to communicate with patients and families
- Interact with consultants in a respectful, appropriate manner
- Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records
- Complete evaluations of the attending, staff and rotation
- Learn to discuss issues relating to the care of newborns, including safety issues, developmental issues, and preventative care issues with new mothers

Professionalism: Residents are expected to demonstrate behaviors that reflect a commitment to continuous professional development, ethical practice, an understanding and sensitivity to diversity and a responsible attitude toward their patients, their profession and society, and

- Demonstrate respect, compassion, integrity, and altruism in relationships with patients, families, and colleagues
- Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to the gender, age, culture, religion, sexual preference, socioeconomic status, beliefs, behaviors and disabilities of patients and professional colleagues
- Adhere to principles of confidentiality, scientific/academic integrity, and informed consent

Systems-Based Practice: Residents are expected to demonstrate both an understanding of the contexts and systems in which health care is provided, and the ability to apply this knowledge to improve and optimize health care, and

- Understand, access and utilize the resources, providers and systems necessary to provide optimal care
- Understand the limitations and opportunities inherent in various practice types and delivery systems, and develop strategies to optimize care for the individual patient
- Apply evidence-based, cost-conscious strategies to prevention, diagnosis and disease management
- Collaborate with other members of the health care team to assist patients in dealing effectively with complex systems and to improve systematic processes of care
- Learn appropriate discharge planning and follow-up, in keeping with the recommendations of the American Academy of Pediatrics for discharge of the healthy term neonate
- Learn to provide appropriate newborn care in the context of the family unit
- Evaluate and care for infants as part of a multidisciplinary team consisting of obstetricians, midwives, maternal-neonatal nurses, lactation specialists, discharge planners and social workers