

## **Resident Competency Program Course Syllabus**

Lisa Fuller, Course Coordinator  
Department of Surgery  
Suite 6-C, Room-29, UHC  
Phone: 577-4855; Fax: 577-5310  
E-mail: lfuller@med.wayne.edu

### **Significance of the Resident Competency Program:**

The Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME) has instituted a set of competencies for Department of Surgery Residencies across the nation. Competence refers to a state of being well qualified to perform an activity, task, or job function. In medical education, surgical residents are expected to acquire the knowledge, skills, and behaviors in the following core competency areas: professionalism, patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal/communication, practice-based learning, and systems-based practice. There are different ways in which residents can demonstrate these competencies. One method is a certification process whereby residents are expected to successfully pass the American Board of Surgery Examination upon graduation. Another process is formalized professional activities that residents encounter in clinical practice. However, in order for surgical residents to become well-qualified surgeons, they must first be taught how to apply these competencies during their clinical training. Thus, to set up the conditions of learning these skills; the Department of Surgery has developed a Resident competency Program for first year residents.

### **Goal of the RCP Course:**

The purpose of the Resident Competency Program (RCP) is to provide a comprehensive curriculum for first year residents to promote the development of their knowledge and understanding of the surgical competencies mandated by the Accreditation Council of Graduate Medical Education (ACGME). The RCP course enhances residents' skills in the area of patient care, medical knowledge, interpersonal communication, professionalism, systems-based practice and practice-based learning. The curriculum is comprised of instructor-led sessions and web-mediated discussion forums, which are facilitated by the surgical residents. The overall design and content of the curriculum is based on the generative learning theory model, which posits that learners are not passive recipients of information, but an active participant in the instructional experience (Grabowski, 1996).

The RCP course will focus on the following topics:

- 1) Online Medical Databases/ Anatomy of a Research Article
- 2) Billing and Coding Terminology /Procedures for Completing Operative Case Logs
- 3) The Science of Learning
- 4) Medical Ethics
- 5) Principles of Communication and Breaking Bad News
- 6) Consent, Surrogacy and End of Life Care
- 7) Professionalism and Systems-Based Practice
- 8) Palliative Care and the Dying Patient
- 9) Conflict Management-Person Centered Care
- 10) Effective Teamwork
- 11) Personal Awareness and Self-Care
- 12) Culturally Congruent Care/ RCP Final Examination

## **RCP Course Topics Continued:**

\* In addition to instructor-led sessions, residents are responsible for facilitating online discussion forums with their peers based on selected research articles related to a specific RCP topic. These forums are reviewed by the course coordinator and program director.

## **Target Population:**

First year residents in the Department of Surgery are required to participate in the Resident Competency Program

## **Global Objectives:**

Upon completion of the Resident Competency Program, students will be able to:

- Gain internet research skills to retrieve medical literature
- Gain a better understanding of online search engines for health-care practitioners
- Understand how to critically appraise a research article
- Gain a better understanding of billing and coding terminology
- Identify appropriate methods of completing operative case logs using medical coding procedures
- Identify successful learning techniques in reviewing lectures and medical literature
- Apply various types of study skills strategies to maximize learning
- Understand the moral and ethical dilemmas in patient care
- Identify the common care needs of the dying patient
- Describe the ethical and legal issues of informed consent, surrogacy, and end of life care
- Identify professionalism in medical practice
- Understand the distinction between different health care organizations in delivering cost-efficient care to patients
- Learn to apply successful communication techniques when breaking bad news to patients and their families
- Identify the types of conflict which can occur with patients, family members, or medical staff
- Identify communication strategies to prevent conflict
- Understand how attitude plays a significant role in teamwork
- Gain a better understanding of the qualities of a good leader
- Identify strategies that team leaders use to facilitate the health-related goals of a patient
- Understand the importance of one's own personal awareness and self care to prevent burnout
- Identify methods of applying culturally congruent care to a diverse population

## **Overview of Educational Design:**

Approximately Twenty hours of instruction is provided to residents over a 12 week period. Faculty members in the Department of Surgery and guest lecturers from outside of the department are involved in teaching residents.

### Program Schedule:

Each RCP session is 1.5 hours with the exception of sessions *1 and 12, which are 2 hours in length*. All sessions are held on Friday mornings from 10:30A.M.-12:00Noon. The instructional strategies used to engage residents in the learning process include pre and post tests, lectures, online discussion forums, case scenarios and a comprehensive final examination. The program faculty will provide residents with hand-outs and other course material.

## **Evaluation:**

### RCP Grading System:

10 Points	Completion of all pre and post tests
10 Points	Submission of research article related to an RCP topic
40 Points	Residents' facilitation and participation in online discussion forums based on the selected research articles
40 Points	Final Examination

*The total course grade for each resident is posted on Blackboard.*

### Course Evaluation:

At each RCP session, residents are administered pre and post tests to assess their learning outcomes. Additionally, residents complete an evaluation at the end of each session to determine the quality of the lecture format, presentation, and educational outcomes. Upon completing the Resident Competency Program, the residents are required to complete a course evaluation to measure the instructional skills of faculty and the overall quality of the program.