



OBJECTIVES FOR PEDIATRIC SURGERY TRAINEES

ON OFF-SERVICE ROTATIONS

I – Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

This rotation is often done in the first six months of training as a first-year pediatric surgery resident. This is to lay the fundamental groundwork for understanding the unique aspects of neonatal physiology and pathophysiology.

1. Medical Expert/Clinical Decision-Maker

- a) To develop and to demonstrate an in-depth knowledge of the normal physiology of the fetus and newborn infant together with the pathophysiology, prevention, management, and prognosis of fetal and neonatal disorders.
- b) To become familiar with the antepartum and intrapartum assessments of fetal well-being and to demonstrate awareness of maternal influences and maternal disorders that may adversely affect the fetus and newborn.
- c) To develop problem solving skills and clinical competence that will permit the triaging of newborns to appropriate levels of care and to be familiar with the organization and management of care at Levels I, II and III.
- d) To understand the etiology, prevention, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis of complications and sequelae of prematurity itself and of neonatal intensive care and to become familiar with the acute care and follow up care required by these high-risk infants.

2. Communicator

- a) To understand, identify and manage a broad range of emotional and psychosocial problems that may affect the families of newborn infants.
- b) Develop skills to communicate difficult news to patients' families, eg breaking-bad-news



3. Collaborator

- a) Consult effectively with other physicians and health care professionals.
- b) Contribute effectively to interdisciplinary team activities.
- c) Use effectively the team approach in the management of critically and chronically ill newborns with congenital anomalies or other health issues.

4. Manager

- a) To understand the epidemiology of neonatal-perinatal problems and the need for the provision of appropriate services for preventing, diagnosing and treating these problems in the community
- b) Understand the concepts of regional continuing medical and health professional education, communication and transport.

5. Scholar

- a) To become experienced in the supervision and teaching of junior medical and other allied health staff in the neonatal ICU (with relevance to surgical aspects).
- b) To learn how to seek information in the medical literature, how to critically appraise such information and apply it in the practice of evidence-based medicine as it applies to the NICU.

6. Professional

- a) To identify an approach to ethical dilemmas in neonatal-perinatal medicine, including both individual patient problems and broad social and economic issues as may apply to both a developed and a developing country.