

## Boise Clerkship Orientation

**Introduction:** Each student will spend 6 weeks in their OB/GYN clerkship in Boise. As our goal is to provide as broad an exposure as possible, daily activities will vary between general and specialist offices, labor and delivery, the operating room, and the VA. *A course guide that provides a description of the goals, expectations, reading lists, and course objectives is available from the University of Washington clerkship web site. Take time to read this carefully.*

<http://depts.washington.edu/obgyn/clerkship/>

Course Activities: Your activities will be divided between the following areas:

- Labor and Delivery and in-hospital call
- Gynecologic surgery at St. Luke's Regional Medical Center and the local VA hospital
- Clinic in private OB/GYN offices.
- County Health Dept's sexually transmitted disease (STD) clinic.
- Specialty offices including Maternal-Fetal Medicine, GYN Oncology, and Reproductive Endocrinology specialists.
- Family Medicine Residency OB clinic.
- VA women's health clinic.

As such, you will be seeing a wide variety of providers and practice settings. While challenging with regard to learning and working with different individuals, this allows a broad and diversified experience. Below, I'll address each of these in more detail.

- 1) **Labor and Delivery/ In-hospital call:** You will be expected to take approximately 6 call nights in the hospital. Most of the time you will be at the hospital from 7 am until noon the next day. You always have the following afternoon off after a call night. Activities will include following active labor and delivery patients, high risk OB patients and transports, OB and GYN Emergency Room patients, assisting in C-sections, OB triage, reading, suturing practice, (occasional sleep), etc. There is an incredible availability to experience a wide range of patients and conditions but you must be visible, eager, friendly, helpful, humble, and **proactive**. Let me explain:
  - a. **Residents:** The family medicine residents, as a group, are motivated and eager to help you. They will serve as a great resource during your rotation and will help orientate and teach you a great deal during your 6 weeks. They are not in charge of your time nor are they expected to direct your activities. You will usually be on call with a 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident at night. Ask questions but realize they may have many clinical duties as well and be respectful of their time.
  - b. **Nurses:** The labor and delivery nurses will help you immensely. Be helpful, available, and teachable.

- c. **Maternal Fetal Specialists (MFM):** They can teach and provide a framework to get involved with high risk patients.
- d. **Emergency Room Charge Nurse:** A resource in order to be notified of potential GYN and early Obstetrical emergency room patients

A sample call day would include:

- a. Arrive and meet the residents in the resident call room at 7am. (8am on weekends) Meet and discuss patients on L&D and choose which patients to follow. Perform any inpatient rounds and write notes as appropriate. Look at the C-Section Schedule to plan participation. Call attending physicians and seek permission to become involved with patients in labor. ***Review the patient's admission consent to determine if they have opted out of student involvement in their care.***
- b. Attend lecture in resident room at 8am unless involved with a C-Section or a delivery. These lectures occur every day but Wednesdays.
- c. Contact the MFM Specialist-on-call (ask the triage receptionist 381-2652 for their pager #) and discuss any high risk patients with whom you could become involved and express a desire to be involved with any transports.
- d. Contact the ER charge nurse and express desire to get involved as appropriate. The charge nurses change shift at 7am and 7pm.
- e. Be eager to observe in addition to "hands-on" experiences.
- f. Don't be shy to call and request permission to get involved. Don't take it personally if a patient or provider says no.
- g. You are not to do any dictations or write orders on patients. Hand written notes only. If asked, just say that as a student, you are not allowed to dictate nor write orders.
- h. Use the L&D locker room or resident lounge whenever you need to change to scrubs.
- i. **Helpful hospital numbers. Prefix is always 381. If calling from a hospital phone, just dial "1" then the extension. Family Practice resident on call: 1-4222. L&D charge nurse: 1-4224. L&D Triage reception: 1-2652. Triage nurses: 1-3456/1-2653. ER: 1-2235. OR front desk: 1-2617. Dr. Christensen's pager: 383-8707. Hospital Info: 381-2222.**
- j. **Codes: Back L&D doors: 1-3-5. Resident Call room: 1-4-5-2.**

**Computer:** All L&D and post-partum information is on the computer. Logon information will be given at orientation.

- 2) **GYN Surgery at St. Lukes:** On the day prior to an assigned OR day, contact the OR front desks at the main OR (1-2617) and the outpatient surgery center (1-3000) and find out the available GYN cases and the listed attending physician for each surgical case. Decide which cases you wish to participate in. Try to see a wide mix of different cases and make sure to take time to read on the preoperative diagnoses. Call the attending physician in the early morning before the case to ask permission to participate. (i.e. call at 7am for a 7:30am case) All pager numbers can be found on the L&D computer or through the L&D front desk (1-2652).

- Once in the OR, ask the attending physician for permission to do an exam under anesthesia (EUA) prior to the sterile prep as often as possible. Always say hello to the patient in the pre-op holding area after confirmation with the attending, whenever possible. If there are not sufficient cases to see on a given day, use the time to study, work on your presentation and write-ups, or you are welcome to seek out involvement with non-gyn cases as desired by talking with other surgeons.
- 3) **Central District Health: (707 N. Armstrong Place – West of Mall off Emerald) (327-8633 Cheryl Archuleta, PA – Contact)** You will spend 2-3 half days at the STD clinic at the country health department. This is a great opportunity to see patients (both male and female) regarding this public health problem. The nurse practitioners are very helpful and have been very agreeable to work with students. Work hard and be teachable. There is a great deal you can learn from them.
  - 4) **Reproductive Endocrinology (Infertility) Specialists (Russell Foulk MD and Cristin Slater, MD): 111 W. Main, # 100 (342-5900)**  
You will spend 1 day in their office. They are the only Board Certified Infertility specialists in the area and run a busy and very successful program including advanced reproductive techniques (ART). Try to get into the lab for some time with the staff where much of the embryology work is done. You should call their office the business day prior to determine what time to arrive on the assigned day.
  - 5) **Veterans Hospital (VA): Women’s Health Clinic (500 W. Fort St., 422-1000, Ext 7758)**  
Wednesdays and Fridays are frequently assigned to the VA Women’s clinic (3<sup>rd</sup> floor around the corner from the OR) where you will get more “hands on” experience. This usually starts at 8:30 when assigned unless it is a surgical day in which case you need to arrive by 7:30 in the main OR.
  - 6) **SLRC (Family Medicine OB Clinic) 121 E. Fort St. 381-1775.**  
This OB clinic has been a great opportunity to get involved in direct patient care. Arrive between 8:30 and 9am after the morning lecture.
  - 7) **Maternal Fetal Medicine (MFM): 333 N. 1<sup>st</sup>., Suite 150. (Directly below Dr. Christensen’s office, Also a Meridian Office).** You will be assigned several sessions with their office. Currently there are 4 MFM specialists. You will see a variety of obstetrical ultrasounds, high risk consultations and patients. Try to observe a session with one the genetic counselors during one or more of your visits. Generally, you’ll need to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45am.
  - 8) **Private Offices:** You will be scheduled for a number of days in private offices, mostly with Dr. Christensen but also at times with other physicians in the local area. Clinics usually will start at 9am and 1pm.
  - 9) **Pathology:** Keep track of all cases in which specimens are sent to pathology including placentas and surgical cases, pap smears, and office biopsies. Towards the end of the rotation, you will have an opportunity to review some of these with a pathologist, if you wish.

**Lectures: Mon, Tues, Thurs, Friday at 8am in the resident lounge.** You should attend these lectures as often as your schedule permits. Surgical cases, deliveries, C-

sections and early assignments elsewhere will take priority. Wednesdays at 8am in the large conference room in the Anderson Center is the hospital Grand Rounds on a variety of topics. These are always open to you should you desire.

**Online lectures on a variety of topics are available on the student website. Please access these as much as possible.**

**Library: 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Anderson Center (381-2276):** This is a nice facility open to you 24 hours a day with your security badge. There are multiple computers with internet access if desired. If you need help with a literature search or obtaining articles, the staff is very helpful. Just identify that you are with the Dept. of OB/GYN.

**Rounds, dictations, etc:** You should round on any patients with whom you have been directly involved in delivery, c-sections and surgeries. You should follow a standard SOAP note format. Do not write any orders. As there are not any formal rounds with attending physicians, it can be helpful to return to the chart later in the day, particularly with more complicated patients, to review care plans implemented. You are not to use the hospital dictation system. All notes should be written. If asked by someone to dictate a note, just state that as a student, you are not allowed dictation privileges.

**Clerkship Coordinator**

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**Transportation**

We highly recommend that students drive their own cars to Boise due to the multiple locations of offices throughout the Treasure Valley.

**Other**

Students will need to bring or provide their own pager for the clerkship. Contact your service provider PRIOR to coming to Boise to make sure the pager is programmed to function in Boise. It is also very helpful to have a computer with word processing and presentation software - although this is not an absolute requirement. Internet access is available in the apartment and the hospital library.