VA Puget Sound Health Care: MICU - Learning Objectives

This is a list of the activities and actions that your attendings will be observing during this rotation to gauge your independence. Use the descriptions of each of these activities that you might do in the ICU to solicit specific feedback as you grow towards independence over the three years of residency.

Effectively triage and manage patients clinically decompensating on the floor or in the emergency department.
Within this context, seek to: Use available data to define a patient’s central clinical problem(s); differentiate between situations requiring urgent care or emergent care; and communicate effectively and professionally with a patient’s current providers to determine the safest immediate care for that patient.

Present a complex, critically ill patient in a logical and concise manner as part of ICU rounds
Within this context, seek to: Synthesize information from a variety of sources including patient history, medical records, physical examination and diagnostic data; generate a prioritized problem list for the patient; delineate a specific plan for diagnosis and therapy of each identified problem; and include the patient’s family (when present) in the discussion as well as effectively engage all members of the multidisciplinary care team.

Manage a patient with shock.
Within this context, seek to: Effectively acquire and synthesize information from history and physical examination; customize differential diagnosis and plan based on individual patient presentation; order basic and advanced diagnostic testing appropriately; recognize disease presentations that deviate from common patterns; and institute appropriate interventions, monitor patient response and adjust interventions.

Manage a critically ill patient with spinal cord injury or other neuromuscular disease.
Within this context, seek to: Generate a prioritized patient problem list; work effectively with all members of the care team, including Rehabilitation Medicine providers, physical therapists, and respiratory therapists; and appropriately modify care plan to account for a patient’s (and caregiver’s) unique needs.

Manage a severe COPD exacerbation requiring either non-invasive or invasive ventilation.
Within this context, seek to: Effectively develop a care plan based on focused history, physical exam and secondary data; institute appropriate “best practice” therapies, monitor response and adjust interventions; recognize situations requiring urgent or emergent interventions or changes in care plan; understand the mechanisms of COPD exacerbations and their therapies and synthesize clinical evidence from medical information resources.

Determine when a patient requires an invasive procedure, and safely perform that procedure with the appropriate level of supervision.
Within this context, seek to: Complete procedures with the required necessary technical skills and poise; maximize patient comfort and safety when performing procedures; appropriately prioritize situations that require routine, urgent or emergent care; communicate effectively with nursing and other staff to ensure patient safety; and solicit and incorporate feedback to improve procedural skills.

Effectively and compassionately guide a patient-centered discussion of goals of care.
Within this context, seek to: Build rapport; engage patients/advocates in shared decision-making; integrate evidence, clinical context and patient preferences into decision-making; communicate risks and benefits accurately and effectively; communicate complex medical conditions in easily understandable language; actively listen; and recognize and manage conflict when patient values differ from their own.

Order labs and imaging studies thoughtfully with attention to providing high quality care, minimizing unnecessary testing, and overall resource management.
Within this context, seek to: Address patient-specific and system-related barriers to cost-effective care; incorporate cost-awareness principles into clinical decision-making, including in the ordering of diagnostic and screening tests; and advocate for cost-conscious utilization of resources.