

PA Surgical Residency Training Objectives

Thoracic Surgery

Patient Care

The PA Surgical Resident on the Thoracic Surgery Service should demonstrate the ability to:

- Evaluate pre-operative patients with complex thoracic issues or procedures including (but not exclusive of) benign and malignant tumors of the chest, aneurysmal disease of the thoracic aorta, malignant disorders of the diaphragm/pleura/chest wall and non-neoplastic disorders of the esophagus.
- Understand the operative steps for the following procedures commonly performed on the service:
- Pulmonary resections (wedge, lobectomy, and pneumonectomy)
 - Manage ward/postoperative patients.
 - Prioritize patient acuity.
 - Manage ward emergencies (arrhythmia, hypoxia, shock, etc.).
 - Prioritize clinical responsibilities.
 - Plan discharge.
- Perform (or have experience with) the following ward procedures:
 - Arterial line/ABG.
 - Peripheral line/Phlebotomy.
 - Chest tube placement.
 - Wound Debridement.

Medical Knowledge

The PA Surgical Resident on the Thoracic Surgery Service should understand:

- Basic Science principles (ex: lung volumes, wound healing).
- Thoracic Surgery principles (ex: pneumothorax).
- General Medicine principles (ex: infectious disease).
- Common presenting signs and symptoms, evaluation of, and management of the following:
 - Pulmonary malignancies (primary and metastatic)
 - Pulmonary infections (fungal, bacterial)/empyema
 - Tumors of the mediastinum, pleura, and chest wall
 - Aneurysmal disease of thoracic aorta
 - Esophageal cancer and benign tumors
 - Benign conditions of the esophagus (spasm, achalasia, diverticula)
 - Spontaneous pneumothorax
 - Benign and malignant pleural effusions

Suggested Reading: In addition to sections from the major surgical textbooks relating to your individual patients, you should inquire of the faculty surgeons as to special contemporary articles and or texts that he would consider relevant.

Practice Based Learning and Improvement

The PA Surgical Resident should demonstrate the ability to:

- Evaluate published literature in critically acclaimed journals and texts.

- Apply clinical trials data to patient management.
- Participate in academic and clinical discussions.
- Teach medical students and physician assistant students.
- Attend conferences.

Interpersonal and Communication Skills

The PA Surgical Resident should demonstrate the ability to interact with the following persons professionally:

- Patients;
- Family members;
- Nursing staff; and
- Other members of the care team.

Professionalism

The PA Surgical Resident should:

- Be receptive to feedback on performance.
- Be attentive to ethical issues.
- Be involved in end-of-life discussions and decisions.
- Be sensitive to gender, age, race, and cultural issues.
- Demonstrate leadership.

Systems Based Practice

The PA Surgical Resident should:

- Be aware of cost-effective care issues.
- Be sensitive to medical-legal issues.
- Have information technology/computer resources available