The PGY1 resident will spend a one-month rotation on rheumatology at the VA Hospital. The resident will obtain an introduction to the diagnosis and physical examination of patients with musculoskeletal conditions.

1. Provide care that is compassionate, appropriate and effective for the treatment of rheumatology problems and promotion of health.
2. Hone skills in identifying key history and exam needed to evaluate adults presenting with conditions involving the musculoskeletal systems for orthopaedic referral.
3. Demonstrate the proper pre and postoperative care and medical management of patients having orthopaedic surgery: preoperative clearance, understanding risks and potential complications of various procedures, role of postoperative anticoagulation, risk and treatment of postoperative complications and infection.
4. Demonstrate competency in the postoperative management of orthopaedic patients.
5. Learn the role of postoperative inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation in patients undergoing orthopedic procedures and observe rehabilitation sessions as well as learn specific modalities and indications for specific interventions.

diagram

Competency 2 – Medical Knowledge: Understand the scope of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological and social-behavioral knowledge needed by a pediatrician; demonstrate the ability to acquire, critically interpret and apply this knowledge needed by an orthopedist; demonstrate the ability to acquire, critically interpret and apply this knowledge in patient care.

1. Understand and demonstrate the differential diagnosis and orthopaedic approach to the evaluation of patients with neck, back, shoulder, hip, knee, elbow hand and wrist disorders.
2. Perform the basic management of the above localized disorders.
3. Interpret the classification of functioning, disability and health.
4. Gain and understanding for the available assistive and orthotic devices and their roles in improved patient function.
5. Demonstrate competency regarding the principals and application of vocational rehabilitation in patients with musculoskeletal and rheumatic disease.
6. Learn the indications, role of evaluating patients and principles by with EMG and NCS work.

Competency 3 – Communication Skills: Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in information exchange and partnering with patients, their families and professional associates.

1. Talk to family members about sensitive issues that relate to a patient’s illness, e.g. coping with the patient’s altered needs in his/her home setting.
2. Write an effective and timely consultation note that summarizes the findings and recommendations of the orthopedist and clarifies the continued role and responsibility of the consultant.
3. Describe the role of all members of a multi-disciplinary team and show respect for the contributions of each.
4. Maintain comprehensive, timely and legible medical records.
5. Effectively provide information via various communication mediums.
6. Demonstrate effectively listening skills.

**Competency 4 – Practice Based Learning and Improvement:** Demonstrate knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for continuous self-assessment, using scientific methods and evidence to investigate, evaluate and improve one’s patient care practice.

1. Identify standardized guidelines for diagnosis and treatment of complex problems of the musculoskeletal system and learn the rationale for adaptations that optimize treatment.
2. Identify personal learning needs, strengths, deficiencies and limits in one’s knowledge and expertise.
3. Systematically organize relevant information resources for future references, and plan for continuing data acquisition if appropriate.
4. Seek and incorporate feedback and self-assessment into a plan for professional growth and practice improvement (e.g. use evaluations provided by patients, peers, superiors and subordinates to improve patient care.
5. Educate patients, families, students and or other health professionals regarding the rheumatology conditions.

**Competency 5 – Professionalism:** Demonstrate a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles and sensitivity to diversity.

1. Be honest and use integrity in your professional duties.
2. Demonstrate responsiveness to patient’s needs that supersedes self interest.
3. Appreciate the psychosocial impact of diseases (e.g. on the family, patients’ work, school).
4. Respect your patient’s privacy, autonomy and need to maintain a positive self-concept, irrespective of age, gender or health belief system, and regardless of acuity of diseases.
5. Be sensitive to the ethical and legal dilemmas faced by providers working with patients.
6. Consistently report to duty on time.

**Competency 6 – System-Based Practice:** Understand how to practice quality health care and advocate for patients within the context of the healthcare system.

1. Clarify how documentation and billing charges differ for consultations vs. referrals vs. on-going management.
2. Describe patient and system factors that contribute to escalating costs of care in the subspecialty setting, and consider the impact of these costs on families and on the health care system.
3. Incorporates considerations of cost awareness and risk benefit analysis in patient care.
4. Consider potential sources of medical error in this subspecialty setting (e.g. drug interactions, complex care plans, provider fatigue).
5. Demonstrate an understanding for various health funding systems including private insurance, Medicare, Medicaid, Workers Compensation, and Vocational Rehabilitation.