JUNIOR EMERGENCY MEDICINE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
FOR GENERAL SURGERY RESIDENTS

Medical Expert:

GOAL: As Medical Experts, physicians consider all of the CanMEDS Roles, applying medical knowledge, clinical skills, and professional attitudes in their provision of patient-centered care. Medical Expert is the central physician Role in the CanMEDS framework.

Junior Emergency Medicine residents work towards developing a defined body of knowledge and procedural skills which are used to collect and interpret data, make appropriate clinical decisions, and carry out diagnostic and therapeutic procedures for basic and common patient presentations. Their care is characterized by ethical and professional clinical practice under supervision and communication with patients, other health care providers, and the community. The role of medical expert/clinical decision-maker is central to the function of resident physicians, and draws on the competencies included in the roles of scholar, communicator, health advocate, manager, collaborator, and professional.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Describe the relevant anatomy, pathophysiology, and natural history of common acute disorders of body systems (These systems include the core content of the RCPS emergency medicine program and the ACEP Core Content for Emergency Medicine: refer to references which follow).

2. Elicit a relevant, concise, and accurate history.

3. Conduct an effective physical examination.

4. Identify relevant procedures to collect, analyze, and interpret data.

5. Develop and prioritize a differential diagnosis for most presenting problems.

6. Identify appropriate therapeutic interventions to help resolve a patient's problem.

7. Demonstrate an appreciation for when acute intervention must take priority over thorough systematic patient assessment.

8. Demonstrate knowledge of the basic principles of resuscitation.

9. Demonstrate recognition of personal limits by self-assessment, including the ability to solicit help when appropriate.

10. Perform basic psychomotor skills such as suturing laceration and chest tube insertion.

11. Demonstrate an appreciation the importance of using the best available evidence to select medically appropriate investigative tools that are informative, ethical and cost-effective.
Communicator

GOAL: As Communicators, physicians attempt to facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during, and after the medical encounter.

To provide humane, high-quality care, junior Emergency Medicine residents establish relationships with patients, other physicians, and other health professionals. Communication skills are essential for the functioning of an Emergency Physician, and are necessary for obtaining information from, and conveying information to patients and their families. Furthermore, these abilities are critical in eliciting patients' beliefs, concerns, and expectations about their illnesses, and for assessing key factors impacting on patients' health.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Establish and maintain rapport and relationships with most patients that are characterized by understanding, trust, empathy, and confidentiality.
2. Explore patient's beliefs, concerns, and expectations about the origin, nature, and management of his/her illness.
3. Inform and counsel a patient in a sensitive and respectful manner while fostering understanding, discussion, and the patient's active participation in decisions about their care.
4. Screen for sensitive issues such as those of substance abuse, physical or sexual abuse and risk factors for HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases.
5. Break bad news such as that of death or serious illness or injury to patients and/or their family members in a way that is sensitive, thorough and understandable.
6. Discuss issues of advanced directives, living wills and DNR orders with patients and their families.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of communicating such that the roles of professionals are well delineated and consistent messages are delivered to patients and their families.
8. Communicate an accurate, organized case summary to supervising physicians.
9. Communicate effectively with other health providers, to ensure optimal and consistent care of the patient and his/her family.
10. Maintain clear, accurate, and appropriate records.
11. Demonstrate ability to identify others who present significant communication challenges such as an ethno-cultural background different from the physician's own, physical or emotional impairment, or patients who pose a risk for violent or aggressive behaviour.
**Collaborator**

**GOAL:** As Collaborators, physicians effectively work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

The junior Emergency Medicine resident is characterized as a collaborator when he/she works in partnership with others as a member of an interdisciplinary team to reach a common goal. Depending on the task at hand, the partnership/collaboration may include, besides the Emergency Medicine resident, patients and their families, other physicians (primary care and specialist), allied health professionals, community organizations, alternative care providers, administrative bodies, researchers, and educators.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Inform and involve the patient and his/her family in decision-making, and attempt to integrate the opinions of the patient and caregivers into management plans.
2. Identify the role, expertise and limitations of core members of the multidisciplinary team required to optimally achieve a goal related to patient care.
3. Contribute to healthy team development and conflict resolution, respecting the opinions and roles of team members and contribute his/her own expertise to the team's task.
4. Be an effective team participant.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of the unique interaction of the emergency department with every component of the health care system including the hospital, its relationship to the community, and other agencies such as Emergency Medicine Services (EMS).
6. Participate in multidisciplinary team meetings, demonstrating the ability to accept, consider and respect the opinions of other team members, while contributing specialty-specific expertise.
7. Manifest appropriate judgment when requesting consultation expertise from colleagues in other specialty disciplines.
8. Identify other health care practitioners (including consultants) and available health care resources that can be used to plan the care of special needs patients such as elderly, pediatric and functionally impaired.
Manager

**GOAL:** As Managers, physicians are integral participants in healthcare organizations, organizing sustainable practices, making decisions about allocating resources, and contributing to the effectiveness of the healthcare system.

Junior emergency medicine residents function as managers when they make everyday practice decisions involving resources, tasks and their personal lives. Thus, Emergency Medicine residents require the abilities to prioritize and effectively execute tasks through teamwork with colleagues, and make systematic decisions when allocating finite health care resources.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Employ effective time management and self-assessment skills to formulate realistic expectations and a balanced lifestyle.
2. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of resource allocation based on evidence of the benefit to individual patients and the population served.
3. Function effectively in health care organizations.
4. Use patient-related databases, access computer based information, and understand the fundamentals of medical informatics.
5. Demonstrate an appreciation of the particular circumstances that foster positive relationships between the Emergency Department, the hospital and the community.
6. Work effectively as a member of a team or a partnership to accomplish tasks.
7. Demonstrate an understanding of the importance of quality improvement in the emergency department and act on feedback regarding practice.
8. Manage concomitantly a small number of ill and injured patients at any given time with a view to both providing these patients with excellent care and understanding the factors influencing the continued smooth flow of patients through an Emergency Department.
9. Demonstrate recognition of the legal and ethical issues pertaining to the care of a patient, such as the assessment of mental competency, and outline the physician's role.
10. Demonstrate understanding of important high-risk medico-legal situations pertaining to emergency medicine.
Health Advocate

**GOAL:** As Health Advocates, physicians responsibly use their expertise and influence to advance the health and well-being of individual patients, communities, and populations.

Junior Emergency Medicine residents recognize the importance of advocacy activities in responding to the challenges represented by those social, environmental, and biological factors that determine the health of patients and society. They recognize advocacy as an essential and fundamental component of health promotion that occurs at the level of the individual patient and the practice population.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Identify the determinants of health that affect a patient, including the ability to recognize and assess the psychosocial, economic, and biologic factors influencing the health of those served.
2. Recognize those issues, settings, circumstances, or situations in which advocacy on behalf of patients, professions, or society is appropriate.
3. Demonstrate an understanding of the most important determinants of health (i.e., poverty, unemployment, early childhood education, social support systems) to common problems and conditions encountered in emergency medicine.
4. Demonstrate an understanding of these concepts as applied to the management of individual patients by identifying the patient's status with respect to one or more of the determinants of health (i.e., unemployment); adapting the assessment, management and disposition accordingly (i.e., the medical history to the patient's social circumstances); and assessing the patient's ability to access various services in the health and social system.
5. Show the ability to develop a coordinated and effective approach to the medical, social, psychological and legal aspects of special populations, including
   a. Victims of human violence, including child, domestic and elder abuse.
   b. Underserviced populations
   c. Extremes of age
   d. Culturally diverse populations
GOAL: As Scholars, physicians demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning, as well as the creation, dissemination, application and translation of medical knowledge.

Junior Emergency Medicine residents function as scholars whether they are learning new knowledge from personal continuing education, applying knowledge to their daily practice or sharing knowledge with those related to their practice. This latter group may include patients, the public, medical students or residents, physicians, and other professional healthcare workers. Interpretation of new information requires critical appraisal skills, as well as the capacity to assess clinical applicability. Scholarly activity is a life-long endeavor that ensures professional competence, and guarantees optimal care of patients.

OBJECTIVES:

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Apply new knowledge to daily practice.
2. Acquire the skills necessary to apply new knowledge in an evidence-based fashion to clinical practice.
3. Demonstrate interest in new knowledge acquisition, including the ability to ask insightful and relevant questions during clinical practice.
4. Establish a sustainable pattern of reading that will allow him/her to develop the current knowledge base regarding patients seen.
5. Become aware of patient information and patient support groups. Become aware of web sites capable of providing comprehensive information to patients pertinent to illness or injury treated in the emergency department.
6. Pose an appropriate patient-related question, execute a systematic search for evidence, and critically evaluate medical literature and other evidence in order to optimize clinical decision-making.
Professional

**GOAL:** As *Professionals*, physicians are committed to the health and well-being of individuals and society through ethical practice, profession-led regulation, and high personal standards of behaviour.

Junior Emergency Medicine residents have a unique societal role as professionals with a distinct body of knowledge, skills, and attitudes dedicated to improving the health and well-being of others. They are committed to developing the highest standards of excellence in clinical care and ethical conduct, and to continually perfecting mastery of their discipline.

**OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the rotation, junior residents should be able to:

1. Maintain and enhance appropriate knowledge, skills and professional behaviours related to racial, cultural, and societal issues that impact on the delivery of care.
2. Be responsible, reliable, and accountable for personal actions.
3. Have a high degree of self-awareness, continually evaluate his/her abilities, knowledge and skills and be receptive to feedback regarding personal development.
4. Maintain an appropriate balance between personal and professional roles, and address interpersonal differences in professional relations.
5. Practice medicine in an ethically responsible manner that respects the medical, legal and professional obligations of belonging to a self-regulating body.
6. Recognize, analyze and attempt to resolve in clinical practice ethical issues such as truth-telling, consent, advanced directives, confidentiality, end-of-life care, conflict of interest, resource allocation and research ethics.
7. Understand and be able to apply relevant legislation that relates to the health care system in order to guide one's clinical practice.
8. Recognize and respond to unprofessional behaviours in clinical practice, taking into account local and provincial regulations.
9. Balance the respect of autonomy with the duty to use their expertise for the patients’ benefit.
10. Assess a patient’s competency, ensure the patient is informed, listen, educate, and correct misunderstandings.
11. Protect information provided by or about patients, keeping it confidential, and divulge it only with the patient’s permission except when otherwise required by law.