

DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

Policy on Supervision of Patient Care

Each patient admitted to a surgical service, seen in the outpatient department or emergency room, or seen in consultation by surgery shall have an attending faculty surgeon designated who is responsible for that patient's care.

The attending surgeon will supervise and be responsible for all aspects of the patient's care and subsequent follow-up and may delegate aspects of that care to surgical residents commensurate with each resident's level of skill and experience.

The residents are aggregated into teams of individuals with varied experience forming a hierarchy from post-graduate year one (intern) through senior year or chief resident.

Although interns may care for patients and write orders, all major changes in patient condition and changes in treatment must be communicated through the chain of command of the service. The attending surgeon shall be kept informed of all such changes in the patient's condition or management.

If an attending surgeon is out of town or otherwise unavailable, he/she must identify another faculty member to be responsible for each patient and communicate that change to the resident team caring for the patient.