

Orthopaedic Department Transitions of Care:

We take great pride within the orthopaedics department in how we manage our patients, including transitions of care from one physician to another. This requires excellent communication skills from both the giver of information, as well as the listener.

1. Daily Fracture rounds are held at 6am seven days a week, 365 days a year. The intent of this conference is to run through the history, physical, imaging, and treatment plan of any new consult or admission from the previous 24 hours. At least one resident from each subspecialty team is expected to be present. The post-call chief resident, incoming chief resident and post-call faculty are also expected to be present. Additional trauma faculty and Department Chairman are present most days as well. This conference is also used to discuss any unexpected acute care issues on any inpatient as well. There will be a written list of all orthopaedic inpatients, new consultations/admissions, and updates in patient location that is maintained by the on-call resident to serve as a written documentation of this transfer of care.

A. The on-call resident will provide opportunity during conference to verify the received information, including repeat-back or read-back, as appropriate.

B. The presenting resident must allow an opportunity for the receiving team to ask pertinent questions and request additional information about the patient.

2. Residents are expected to tidy up their service prior to leaving the hospital each day. This includes performing all post-op checks excepting late finishing cases. Any details which must be checked overnight require a voice conversation between the leaving resident and night-time trauma resident. An isolated written signout is unacceptable as it does not provide opportunity for feedback, questions, or confirmation.

3. Each weekend and holiday will have one resident from each inpatient service (trauma, spine, tumor/joints) rounding in order to reduce the number of patient handoffs to unfamiliar physicians.

4. On weekends and holidays each service will submit a short list to the on-call weekend team of all their patients and any outstanding issues or treatment plans which require action.

5. Staff physicians who are away are expected to appropriately hand off care of their patients to another staff physician, most typically their subspecialty partner.

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