

VA INPATIENT ATTENDING EXPECTATIONS

(This overview was modified from a version used by Dr. Deborah Levine, a Gold Attending; each attending will likely modify to suit his/her needs and expectations)

Orientation

1. Gold Service
2. Schedule
3. Days off
4. Rounds
5. Communication with attending

Expectations

1. Exam - Examine the whole patient every day
2. Medications – Review medications every day
3. Microbiology – Review microbiology every day
4. Hand Offs – Ensure safe, clear and cohesive hand off
5. Work ups – Do thorough work-ups and write quick but thoughtful note for fever, dyspnea, chest pain, other acute pain episodes, altered mental status, other major acute events
6. Errors – Minimize them and report any. **Be extra careful on on-call and post-call days!**
7. Call days – consider ideal bed location for patient
8. Notes – Be comprehensive and thorough but succinct, include disease severity

Discharges

1. Plan 2 or more days in advance
2. Coordinate with patient and family
3. Order medications and coordinate with pharmacy
4. Order equipment/supplies and coordinate with social work/discharge planning
5. Document hospital course and post-hospital plan well
6. Document pending labs and important incidental findings that need to be followed up
7. Copy PCP and specialists on discharge summary
8. Complete discharge summaries in timely manner

Teaching

1. 8 C's of the VA: CAP, COPD, CHD/chest pain, CHF, CKD, Cancer (Lung), Cirrhosis, and Cerebrovascular disease (Stroke/TIA) – these are the diseases that you should be especially familiar with when you rotate at the VA.

Schedule

1. Call every 4 days
2. EAP rounds on post-call day. Round ~8AM
3. 10:30 AM residents have morning report
4. Multi-disciplinary rounds M, W, Fri at 11:45am – 12:15pm (medical students encouraged to attend once per week)
5. Radiology rounds