Night/Weekend Coverage of Surgical Ward/PCU patients and Surgical Consultations
Effective July 1, 2011
~Revised 6/18/15~

* Please note that all Surgery Senior Residents (PGY 3-7) can apply for VPN access. Please contact Gerald Blanding (Gerald.Blanding@va.gov) for instructions.

Background

ACGME rule changes

- PGY-1 residents – no more than 16 hours (no additional transition time)
- PGY-1 residents should have 10 hours and must have eight hours free of duty between scheduled duty periods

Projected Duty Hours (PGY1s)

1. Weekdays (Monday-Friday)
   - Surgery specialty/subspecialty interns 545a to ~630p
     i. Interns cover the evenings in rotation, with one intern assigned to stay to become the surgery cross-coverage intern from 6p-8p
     ii. The interns covering Wednesday evenings will stay at the VA Wednesday AMs during UCLA conference ~630a to ~1030a to cover all the surgical services and consults
       1. This will be a General/Vascular intern as they have the most complicated patients
       2. Interns leaving for UCLA after rounds should sign out any pending issues to the intern staying at the VA via phone or in person
   - Surgery cross-coverage intern stays until 8p
   - Anesthesia cross-coverage intern 6p – 6a

2. Saturday, Sunday, & VA Holidays
   - Surgery specialty/subspecialty interns for each service 645a – work completed
     i. Interns cover the day/evenings in rotation, with one intern assigned to stay to become the surgery cross-coverage intern
   - Surgery cross-coverage intern stays until 8p
   - Anesthesia cross-coverage intern 730p – 7a

3. Saturday Nights
   - Surgery Intern is cross-coverage intern 730p – 7a
   - Senior Surgery Residents still must come in to see EVERY consult, but Surgery Intern may assist with orders, notes, etc.
   - Senior Surgery Resident must still write a short note that they saw the patient with the plan
Surgical Consultations
- Each surgical specialty/subspecialty is assigned a VA pager specific for that clinical specialty (e.g., Orthopedics VA Pager 5941).
- Typically, the surgical specialty/subspecialty consult pager is carried by the PGY1 during administrative hours.
- After 6pm Weekdays and throughout the Weekends all consults will go to the 5164 pager and the anesthesia intern will forward the page to the correct cross-cover intern or senior to take care of the consult. The anesthesia intern will NOT see the consult for the senior resident. [As such the service pager will NOT be effective >6p Weekdays and during Weekends].
- If appropriate the senior resident can request the PGY1 cross-coverage surgery intern to start/complete any consultations that occur prior to 8pm 
  and Saturday nights.
- After 8pm, the PGY3-7 resident is solely responsible for surgical ER and floor consults. If the patient will be discharged from the ER, a brief surgery consult note from the senior resident will be required.

After Hours Admissions
- Admission H&P and admission orders for surgery admissions occurring prior to 8p will be the responsibility of the cross-coverage surgery PGY1.
- If a patient is admitted by a PGY3-7 resident after 8pm to the PCU or surgery ward (not SICU), the anesthesia cross-coverage PGY1 and Hospitalist (VA pager 2200) will be called to get in person sign-out on the patient.
- The Surgery R3-7 will complete a brief admission note and write admission orders.
- The formal H&P will be completed by the PGY1 surgery specialty/subspecialty service intern (including medication reconciliation) in the AM.
- If a patient is admitted to the SICU, the SICU intern/resident and Attending will be contacted for formal in person sign-out and the SICU intern/resident will write the admission H&P (including medication reconciliation) and admission orders with recommendations from the surgery PGY 3-7.

Notes:
- It is unknown what frequency the PGY3-7 residents will be called to return to the Hospital for urgent consultations. As such, their work hours will be monitored very closely.

Coverage of Surgical Floor and PCU patients
- The cross-coverage PGY1 surgical intern will carry VA pager 5164 (for cross-coverage issues only)
  - from 545a-6p (Weekdays)
  - from 645a-8p (Weekends & Holidays)
- Saturday at 7:30pm the Day Cross-Cover Surgery Intern will sign out to the Night Cross-Cover Surgery Intern.
- An anesthesiology PGY1 will arrive at 6p (Weekdays) and 7:30p (Weekends/Holidays) to receive sign-out
  - Weekdays (6p) directly from the Surgery specialty/subspecialty interns (one intern from each service will stay in house until 6pm for sign-out).
- Weekends & Holidays (730p) from the cross-coverage surgery PGY1.
- This anesthesia intern will also carry VA 5164 Pager.

- The Surgery Service PGY1s will compile a current and accurate sign-out list prior to signing out.
- The PM sign-out will be supervised by the in-house Hospitalist when possible.
- The cross-coverage surgery intern will be scheduled to leave by 8p but MUST leave by 9p [The PGY1 can remain in the hospital with a hard cap of 9p in order to complete necessary duties, but this should be the exception and not the rule].
- AM sign-out from anesthesiology PGY1 back to the surgical teams will occur no later than 545a on weekdays and 645a on weekends and VA holidays (earlier if needed on Wednesdays).
  - Services which are rounding earlier (e.g. General/Vascular, CT) can get sign-out in person as early as 5a by paging the VA pager 5164 to contact the anesthesiology PGY1.
  - Services with fewer and less complex patients may get sign-out via phone conversation by paging the VA pager 5164 no later than 545a on weekdays and 645a on weekends and VA holidays.
  - The cross-coverage surgery intern for the day must be present in person at the 545a or 645a sign-out to take the VA 5164 Pager from the anesthesiology PGY1.

Anesthesia [and Saturday Night Surgery Intern] Cross-Coverage Duties

- The anesthesiology PGY1 will cross-cover all patients on the surgical service (who reside on the general floor and the PCU).
- Patients in the SICU will be covered by the SICU team only.
- An in-house attending Hospitalist will supervise the anesthesiology PGY1 and the Saturday Night Surgery Intern.
- The anesthesiology PGY1 or Surgery Intern should alert the Hospitalist for any change in status of any surgical patient.
- The Hospitalist attending will decide when it is appropriate to contact the on-call senior surgical resident for any issues.
  - the surgery interns should sign out any specific issues that the on-call surgery senior would like to be called directly for.
- The anesthesiology PGY1 will compile a current and accurate sign-out list prior to signing-out in the AM.
- The anesthesiology PGY1 will do tuck-in rounds with the in-patient Hospitalist at a time to be determined (e.g. 12MN).

Sign-out Process in AM

- During the weekdays no later than 545a (weekends & Holidays 645a), sign-out will begin between all Surgery Interns, the Anesthesiology Intern, Senior Residents (as appropriate) and the Hospitalist. Busier services may begin sign-out as early as 5a (e.g. General/Vascular, CT).
- This sign-out will occur in the 5 South Resident Workroom. It is expected to last anywhere from 15 to 30 minutes.