Objectives of Training in Gynecologic Oncology

2008

This document applies to those who begin training on or after July 1st, 2008.

(Please see also the “Policies and Procedures.”)

DEFINITION

Gynecologic Oncology is a subspecialty of Obstetrics and Gynecology directed to the diagnosis and management of female genital tract cancers. Gynecologic Oncology integrates multiple modes of therapy to improve the care of women presenting with genital cancer.

GOALS

Upon completion of training, a resident is expected to be a competent specialist in Gynecologic Oncology capable of assuming a consultant’s role in the subspecialty. The resident must acquire a working knowledge of the theoretical basis of the subspecialty, including its foundations in the basic medical sciences and research.

Only candidates certificated by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in Obstetrics and Gynecology may be eligible for certification in Gynecologic Oncology.

Residents must demonstrate the requisite knowledge, skills, and attitudes for effective patient-centered care and service to a diverse population. In all aspects of specialist practice, the graduate must be able to address issues of gender, sexual orientation, age, culture, ethnicity and ethics in a professional manner.

GYNECOLOGIC ONCOLOGY COMPETENCIES

At the completion of training, the resident will have acquired the following competencies and will function effectively as a:

Medical Expert

Definition:

As Medical Experts, Gynecologic Oncologists integrate 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.
Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...

1. Function effectively as consultants, integrating all of the CanMEDS Roles to provide optimal, ethical and patient-centered medical care
   1.1. Perform a consultation effectively, including the presentation of well-documented assessments and recommendations in written and/or verbal form in response to a request from another health care professional
   1.2. Demonstrate effective use of all CanMEDS competencies relevant to Gynecologic Oncology
   1.3. Identify and appropriately respond to relevant ethical issues arising in patient care
   1.4. Demonstrate ability to effectively and appropriately prioritize professional duties when faced with multiple patients and problems
   1.5. Demonstrate compassionate and patient-centered care
   1.6. Recognize and respond to the ethical dimensions in medical decision-making
   1.7. Demonstrate medical expertise in situations other than patient care, such as providing expert legal testimony or advising governments, as needed

2. Establish and maintain clinical knowledge, skills and attitudes appropriate to Gynecologic Oncology
   2.1. Apply knowledge of the clinical, socio-behavioural, and fundamental biomedical sciences relevant to the Gynecologic Oncology, including (but not limited to):
      2.1.1. The embryology, anatomy, histology, genetic, and physiology of the female urogenital tract, the bowel, and the pelvis
      2.1.2. The biological behaviour and characteristics of malignant diseases of the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterine body, fallopian tube, ovary, and trophoblastic tumours
      2.1.3. The epidemiology and etiology of cancer of the female genital tract
      2.1.4. The classification, staging and natural evolution of genital cancer
      2.1.5. The screening techniques used in gynecology, e.g. cervical and endometrial cytology as well as the principles of molecular oncology, epidemiology and genetics as they relate to hereditary cancer screening
      2.1.6. Indications and principles of colposcopy and biopsies, ultrasound, computed tomography (CT) scan, MRI, PET scan, scintigraphy, and needle biopsies in the evaluation of preinvasive and invasive lesions
      2.1.7. Indications, contraindications and complications of different therapeutic and surgical techniques relevant to Gynecologic Oncology
      2.1.8. Therapeutic modalities available for all genital neoplasia, both preinvasive and invasive:
      2.1.8.1. Preinvasive cancers
      2.1.8.1.1. Mode of action, indications, contraindications and results of local destructive techniques and local excisions on the vulva, vagina, cervix and endometrium
2.1.8.2. Invasive cancers

2.1.8.2.1. Radiotherapy

2.1.8.2.1.1. The principles of radiobiology and radiation physics
2.1.8.2.1.2. The indications, limitations and complications of local, external and isotope therapy
2.1.8.2.1.3. The sources, therapeutic methods and complications of radiation therapy
2.1.8.2.1.4. The use of intracavitary application and the indications for brachytherapy
2.1.8.2.1.5. Management of radiation induced acute and chronic complications

2.1.8.2.2. Chemotherapy

2.1.8.2.2.1. Principles of cell biology
2.1.8.2.2.2. Classes of chemotherapeutic agents and their mechanisms of action
2.1.8.2.2.3. Pharmacology of specific agents and their toxicity
2.1.8.2.2.4. Indications, as well as complications of drugs used in the treatment of gynecologic malignancies

2.1.9. The proper staging of various genital cancers

2.1.10. The prognosis of various genital cancers, the sites of recurrence, their investigation and management

2.1.11. The palliative care of cancer patients

2.1.12. The principles of medical genetics, including:

2.1.12.1. Oncogenes, tumour suppressor genes, DNA repair genes, and oncogenesis as it relates to Gynecologic Oncology
2.1.12.2. Basic and clinical research in genetic manipulations

2.1.13. The principles of medical oncology, including:

2.1.13.1. Clinical Pharmacology as applied to cancer chemotherapy, including cell biology, classes of chemotherapeutic agents and their mechanisms of action, pharmacology of specific agents and their toxicity
2.1.13.2. Targeted systemic immunotherapy
2.1.13.3. Chemotherapeutic drug administration as primary therapy, adjuvant therapy, and chemoprevention
2.1.14. The principles of pathology, including:

2.1.14.1. Direct visual and microscopic appearances of lesions of the female genital tract that are premalignant and the features which distinguish them from benign disorders

2.1.14.2. Derivation, biological behaviour and characteristics of disease of the vulva, vagina, cervix, uterine body, fallopian tube, ovary, and trophoblastic disease

2.1.15. The principles of radiation oncology, including:

2.1.15.1. Radiobiology and radiation physics

2.1.15.2. Modification and/or interaction of combined modality of treatment

2.2. Describe the CanMEDS framework of competencies relevant to Gynecologic Oncology

2.3. Apply lifelong learning skills of the Scholar Role to implement a personal program to keep up-to-date, and enhance areas of professional competence

2.4. Contribute to the enhancement of quality care and patient safety in Gynecologic Oncology, integrating the available best evidence and best practices

3. Perform a complete and appropriate assessment of a patient

3.1. Identify and explore issues to be addressed in a patient encounter effectively, including the patient’s context and preferences

3.2. For the purposes of prevention and health promotion, diagnosis and or management, elicit a history that is relevant, concise and accurate to context and preferences

3.3. For the purposes of prevention and health promotion, diagnosis and/or management, perform a focused physical examination that is relevant and accurate

3.4. Select medically appropriate investigative methods in a resource-effective and ethical manner, which includes:

3.4.1. Pre-treatment evaluation (e.g. pre-operative, pre-chemotherapy and protocol)

3.4.2. Assessment of the potential or likelihood of morbidity and mortality from both the disease and therapy, and utilization of methods to minimize and/or prevent the above

3.5. Demonstrate effective clinical problem solving and judgment to address patient problems, including interpreting available data and integrating information to generate differential diagnoses and management plans
4. **Use preventive and therapeutic interventions effectively**

4.1. Implement an effective management plan in collaboration with a patient and their family

4.2. Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely application of preventive and therapeutic interventions relevant to Gynecologic Oncology

4.2.1. Demonstrate the appropriate investigation and management of complications of therapy

4.3. Ensure appropriate informed consent is obtained for therapies

4.4. Ensure patients receive appropriate end-of-life care

5. **Demonstrate proficient and appropriate use of procedural skills, both diagnostic and therapeutic**

5.1. Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely performance of diagnostic procedures relevant to Gynecologic Oncology, including:

5.1.1. Colposcopy

5.1.2. Conization

5.1.3. Biopsy of cervix, vulva, vaginal, endometrium, pelvic masses and lymph nodes (including fine needle aspiration)

5.1.4. Sigmoidoscopy

5.1.5. Paracentesis and thoracentesis

5.2. Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely performance of therapeutic and surgical procedures relevant to Gynecologic Oncology including:

5.2.1. Preparation of the patient for all surgeries

5.2.2. Vaginectomy

5.2.3. Hysterectomy (including radical hysterectomy)

5.2.4. Laparotomy

5.2.5. Vulvectomy

5.2.6. Hysterectomy

5.2.7. Exenteration (total, anterior and posterior)

5.2.8. Lymphadenectomy (including inguinal and/or femoral lymphadenectomy and pelvic and/or periaortic lymphadenectomy)

5.2.9. Bladder and ureteric surgery (ureteric anastomosis, conduit, and cystostomy)

5.2.10. Ileostomy

5.2.11. Colostomy

5.2.12. Gastrostomy
5.2.13. Resection/anastomosis (small bowel and large bowel)
5.2.14. Chemotherapy (including IV, oral, IP, and use of antiemetics)
5.2.15. Radiation Oncology (including interstitial and brachytherapy)

5.3. Ensure informed consent is obtained for procedures
5.4. Appropriately document and disseminate information related to procedures performed and their outcomes
5.5. Ensure adequate follow-up is arranged for procedures performed

6. Seek appropriate consultation from other health professionals, recognizing the limits of their expertise
6.1. Demonstrate insight into their own limitations of expertise
6.2. Demonstrate effective, appropriate, and timely consultation of another health professional as needed for optimal patient care
6.3. Arrange appropriate follow-up care services for a patient and their family

Communicator

Definition:
As Communicators, Gynecologic Oncologists effectively facilitate the doctor-patient relationship and the dynamic exchanges that occur before, during, and after the medical encounter.

Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...

1. Develop rapport, trust, and ethical therapeutic relationships with patients and families
   1.1. Recognize that being a good communicator is a core clinical skill for physicians, and that effective physician-patient communication can foster patient satisfaction, physician satisfaction, adherence and improved clinical outcomes
   1.2. Establish positive therapeutic relationships with patients and their families that are characterized by understanding, trust, respect, honesty and empathy
       1.2.1. Show respect and understanding of factors such as age, religion, ethnocultural background, socioeconomic status which may affect the patient’s experience and decision making related to Gynecologic Oncology illnesses
   1.3. Respect patient confidentiality, privacy and autonomy
   1.4. Listen effectively
   1.5. Be aware and responsive to nonverbal cues
   1.6. Facilitate a structured clinical encounter effectively
2. **Accurately elicit and synthesize relevant information and perspectives of patients and families, colleagues, and other professionals**
   2.1. Gather information about a disease, but also about a patient’s beliefs, concerns, expectations and illness experience
   2.2. Seek out and synthesize relevant information from other sources, such as a patient’s family, caregivers and other professionals

3. **Convey relevant information and explanations accurately to patients and families, colleagues and other professionals**
   3.1. Deliver information to a patient and family, colleagues and other professionals in a humane manner and in such a way that it is understandable, encourages discussion and participation in decision-making

4. **Develop a common understanding on issues, problems and plans with patients, families, and other professionals to develop a shared plan of care**
   4.1. Identify and explore problems to be addressed from a patient encounter effectively, including the patient's context, responses, concerns, and preferences
   4.2. Respect diversity and difference, including but not limited to the impact of gender, religion and cultural beliefs on decision-making
   4.3. Encourage discussion, questions, and interaction in the encounter
   4.4. Engage patients, families, and relevant health professionals in shared decision-making to develop a plan of care
   4.5. Address challenging communication issues effectively, such as obtaining informed consent, delivering bad news, and addressing anger, confusion and misunderstanding

5. **Convey effective oral and written information about a medical encounter**
   5.1. Maintain clear, concise, accurate and appropriate records (e.g., written or electronic) of clinical encounters and plans
   5.2. Present verbal reports of clinical encounters and plans effectively
   5.3. Present medical information effectively to the public or media regarding a medical issue
COLLABORATOR

**Definition:**

As Collaborators, Gynecologic Oncologists effectively work within a healthcare team to achieve optimal patient care.

**Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...**

1. **Participate effectively and appropriately in an interprofessional healthcare team**
   1.1. Describe the subspecialist’s roles and responsibilities to other professionals
   1.2. Describe the roles and responsibilities of other professionals within the health care team
   1.3. Recognize and respect the diversity of roles, responsibilities and competences of other professionals in relation to their own
   1.4. Work with others to assess, plan, provide and integrate care for individual patients (or groups of patients)
      1.4.1. Develop a care plan for the patient including investigation, treatment and continuing care, in collaboration with the members of the inter-professional team
      1.4.2. Demonstrate the importance of cooperation and communication with allied health professionals such that the roles of these professionals are delineated and consistent messages are delivered to patients and their families
   1.5. Work with others to assess, plan, provide and review other tasks, such as research problems, educational work, program review or administrative responsibilities
   1.6. Participate effectively in interprofessional team meetings including tumour boards
   1.7. Enter into interdependent relationships with other professions for the provision of quality care
   1.8. Describe the principles of team dynamics
   1.9. Respect team ethics, including confidentiality, resource allocation and professionalism
   1.10. Demonstrate appropriate leadership in a healthcare team

2. **Work effectively with other health professionals to prevent, negotiate, and resolve interprofessional conflict**
   2.1. Demonstrate a respectful attitude towards other colleagues and members of an interprofessional team
   2.2. Work with other professionals to prevent conflicts
   2.3. Employ collaborative negotiation to resolve conflicts
2.4. Respect differences and addresses misunderstandings and limitations in other professionals
2.5. Recognize one’s own differences, misunderstanding and limitations that may contribute to interprofessional tension
2.6. Reflect on interprofessional team function

**Manager**

**Definition:**

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

**Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...**

1. **Participate in activities that contribute to the effectiveness of their healthcare organizations and systems**
   1.1. Work collaboratively with others in their organizations
   1.2. Participate in systemic quality process evaluation and improvement, such as patient safety initiatives
       1.2.1. Demonstrate an understanding of the principles of quality assurance and administration as well as the importance of principles of cost effectiveness and continuous quality assurance/improvement relevant to gynecologic care
   1.3. Describe the structure and function of the healthcare system as it relates to Gynecologic Oncology, including the roles of physicians
   1.4. Describe principles of healthcare financing, including physician remuneration, budgeting and organizational funding

2. **Manage their practice and career effectively**
   2.1. Set priorities and manage time to balance patient care, practice requirements, outside activities and personal life
   2.2. Manage a practice including finances and human resources
   2.3. Implement processes to ensure personal practice improvement
   2.4. Employ information technology appropriately for patient care

3. **Allocate finite healthcare resources appropriately**
   3.1. Recognize the importance of just allocation of healthcare resources, balancing effectiveness, efficiency and access with optimal patient care
3.2. Apply evidence and management processes for cost-appropriate care

4. Serve in administration and leadership roles, as appropriate
   4.1. Chair or participate effectively in committees and meetings
   4.2. Lead or implement change in health care
   4.3. Plan relevant elements of health care delivery (e.g. work schedules)

Health Advocate

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

Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...

1. Respond to individual patient health needs and issues as part of patient care
   1.1. Identify the health needs of an individual patient and their ability to access services in the health and social system
   1.2. Identify opportunities for advocacy, health promotion and disease prevention with individuals to whom they provide care
       1.2.1. Promote and support policies which improve health outcomes for the patient

2. Respond to the health needs of the communities that they serve
   2.1. Describe the practice communities that they serve
   2.2. Identify opportunities for advocacy, health promotion and disease prevention in the communities that they serve, and respond appropriately
   2.3. Appreciate the possibility of competing interests between the communities served and other populations

3. Identify the determinants of health for the populations that they serve
   3.1. Identify the determinants of health of the populations, including barriers to access to care and resources
   3.2. Identify vulnerable or marginalized populations within those served and respond appropriately
4. **Promote the health of individual patients, communities, and populations**
   4.1. Describe an approach to implementing a change in a determinant of health of the populations they serve
   4.2. Describe how public policy impacts on the health of the populations served
   4.3. Identify points of influence in the healthcare system and its structure
   4.4. Describe the ethical and professional issues inherent in health advocacy, including altruism, social justice, autonomy, integrity and idealism
   4.5. Appreciate the possibility of conflict inherent in their role as a health advocate for a patient or community with that of manager or gatekeeper
   4.6. Describe the role of the medical profession in advocating collectively for health and patient safety

**Scholar**

**Definition:**

As **Scholars**, Gynecologic Oncologists demonstrate a lifelong commitment to reflective learning, as well as the creation, dissemination, application and translation of medical knowledge.

**Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...**

1. **Maintain and enhance professional activities through ongoing learning**
   1.1. Describe the principles of maintenance of competence
   1.2. Describe the principles and strategies for implementing a personal knowledge management system
   1.3. Recognize and reflect learning issues in practice
   1.4. Conduct a personal practice audit
   1.5. Pose an appropriate learning question
   1.6. Access and interpret the relevant evidence
   1.7. Integrate new learning into practice
   1.8. Evaluate the impact of any change in practice
   1.9. Document the learning process

2. **Evaluate medical information and its sources critically, and apply this appropriately to practice decisions**
   2.1. Describe the principles of critical appraisal
   2.2. Critically appraise retrieved evidence in order to address a clinical question
   2.3. Integrate critical appraisal conclusions into clinical care
3. **Facilitate the learning of patients, families, students, residents, other health professionals, the public and others, as appropriate**
   - 3.1. Describe principles of learning relevant to medical education
   - 3.2. Identify collaboratively the learning needs and desired learning outcomes of others
   - 3.3. Select effective teaching strategies and content to facilitate others’ learning
     - 3.3.1. Apply principles of adult learning in teaching
     - 3.3.2. Demonstrate ability to effectively teach, supervise and evaluate junior trainees and students in the clinical setting
   - 3.4. Demonstrate an effective lecture or presentation
   - 3.5. Assess and reflect on a teaching encounter
   - 3.6. Provide effective feedback
   - 3.7. Describe the principles of ethics with respect to teaching

4. **Contribute to the development, dissemination, and translation of new knowledge and practices of gynecologic cancers such as molecular biology, immunology, biochemistry, and complementary alternative therapies**
   - 4.1. Describe the principles of research and scholarly inquiry
   - 4.2. Describe the principles of research ethics
   - 4.3. Pose a scholarly question
   - 4.4. Conduct a systematic search for evidence
   - 4.5. Select and apply appropriate methods to address the question
   - 4.6. Disseminate the findings of a study appropriately

**Professional**

**Definition:**

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

**Key and Enabling Competencies: Gynecologic Oncologists are able to...**

1. **Demonstrate a commitment to their patients, profession, and society through ethical practice**
   - 1.1. Exhibit appropriate professional behaviors in practice, including honesty, integrity,
commitment, compassion, respect and altruism

1.2. Demonstrate a commitment to delivering the highest quality care and maintenance of competence

1.3. Recognize and appropriately respond to ethical issues encountered in practice

1.4. Manage conflicts of interest appropriately

1.5. Recognize the principles and limits of patient confidentiality as defined by professional practice standards and the law

1.6. Maintain appropriate relations with patients

2. **Demonstrate a commitment to their patients, profession and society through participation in profession-led regulation**

2.1. Appreciate the professional, legal and ethical codes of Gynecologic Oncology practice, including:
   2.1.1. Withholding and withdrawal of treatment
   2.1.2. Informed consent
   2.1.3. Advanced directives
   2.1.4. Confidentiality
   2.1.5. End-of-life care
   2.1.6. Conflict of interest
   2.1.7. Resource allocation
   2.1.8. Research ethics

2.2. Fulfill the regulatory and legal obligations required of current practice

2.3. Demonstrate accountability to professional regulatory bodies

2.4. Recognize and respond to others’ unprofessional behaviours in practice

2.5. Participate in peer review

3. **Demonstrate a commitment to physician health and sustainable practice**

3.1. Balance personal and professional priorities to ensure personal health and a sustainable practice

3.2. Strive to heighten personal and professional awareness and insight

3.3. Recognize other professionals in need and respond appropriately