

GENERAL SURGERY SCOPE OF PRACTICE GUIDELINES

Systems within the scope of practice of the general surgery physician-physician assistant team to initiate, continue, modify, or refer care include:

Skin and Appendages: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Cauterize/ excise / biopsy lesions - obtain second opinion of suspicious lesions

Common dermatoses

Nail disorders and release of subungual hematoma

Soft tissue injuries

Eye (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Symptoms of ocular disease

Disorders of the lids and lacrimal apparatus

Conjunctivitis

Ocular trauma

Foreign body removal

Ear, Nose and Throat: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Diseases of the ear

Diseases of the nose and sinuses

Diseases of the oral cavity and pharynx

Diseases presenting as neck masses

Lung: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Ordering of pulmonary function tests

Disorders of the airways

*Any patient presenting in acute respiratory distress or suspected pulmonary emboli is to be evaluated by a physician.

Heart: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Valvular heart disease

Coronary heart disease

Disturbances of rate and rhythm

Conduction disturbances

Cardiac failure

Hypertension

*Chest pain suspicious of cardiac disease is to be evaluated by M.D., EKG's are to be over-read.

Blood: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Peri-operative anemia

Hyper-coagulable or hypo-coagulable states

*Peri-operative patients requiring transfusions shall be discussed by M.D.

Alimentary Tract: (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Symptoms and signs of gastrointestinal disease

Diseases of the esophagus

Diseases of the stomach and duodenum

Diseases of the small intestine

Diseases of the colon and rectum

Diseases of the gallbladder

Anorectal diseases

Liver, Biliary Tract, and Pancreas (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Diseases of the Liver

Diseases of the Biliary Tract

Diseases of the Pancreas

Gynecology (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Premenstrual Syndrome

Dysmenorrhea

Contraception (as it relates to amenorrhea in athletic population)

Menopausal Syndrome

Allergic and Immunologic Disorders (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Allergic diseases

Fluid and Electrolyte Disorders (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Diagnosis of fluid and electrolyte disorders in the peri-operative patient

Treatment of specific fluid, electrolyte and acid-base disorders in the peri-operative patient

Fluid management in the peri-operative patient

Urology (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Uncomplicated genitourinary tract infections in the peri-operative patient

Acute or chronic renal disease in the peri-operative patient

Nervous System (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Headache

Head injury- Obtain consultation with MD if intracranial pathology suspected

Peripheral neuropathies

Psychiatric Disorders (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Psychiatric assessment

Common psychiatric disorders

Substance use disorders

Endocrinology (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Common presentations in endocrinology

General Problems in Infectious Diseases (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Fever of unknown origin (FUO)

Animal and human bite wounds

Wound infections

Disorders Due to Physical Agents (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Disorders due to cold

Disorders due to heat

Burns

Cancer: Upon diagnosis- all cancer patients are to be discussed with SUPERVISING PHYSICIAN and appropriate referral made. (May identify, initiate work-up, and initiate care on referral)

Incidence and etiology

Prevention of cancer

Peri-operative Evaluation

**CLINICAL SKILLS SPECIFIC TO PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS IN GENERAL
SURGERY**

Cyst and nevi excision

Apply wound VAC

Appropriate decision to remove sutures

Removal of surgical drains and PICC lines

Flap monitoring

Simple I&D of Abscesses Seromas and Hematomas