

**Department of Veterans Affairs  
Greater Los Angeles Health Care System  
West Los Angeles - Neurology Service  
Outpatient/Subspecialty Rotation**

**Rotation Overview:**

The rotating PGY3 neurology resident will be primarily based at the West Los Angeles VA hospital. The resident will participate in a variety of clinical, conference, and didactic learning experiences that focus on: outpatient general neurology, subspecialty outpatient neurology (specifically movement disorders and neurobehavior), and neuroradiology. In addition the resident will receive one on one EEG reading instruction at the Sepulveda VA. The resident will also participate in morning rounds and educational conferences at the West LA VA made available through the on-site inpatient rotation and attend the core didactics at UCLA CHS.

**This overview outlines the West LA VA Outpatient/Subspecialty Rotation as a unified or integrated curriculum. This rotation provides a structure for resident education in all of the core competency areas; however there are rotation activities that promote growth in specific competency areas, which are further identified below using the following key:**

- Patient Care: 1**
- Medical Knowledge: 2**
- Practice-Based Learning and Improvement: 3**
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills: 4**
- Professionalism: 5**
- Systems-Based Practice: 6**

**Principal Teaching and Learning Activities:**

- 1) **Morning Report:** The PGY3 resident is expected to attend the inpatient morning report at 8:00am-8:30 am to check with the Chief resident about service and patient care needs. This allows the PGY3 to be integrated into acute patient care needs if the service need arises. The PGY3 residents also rotate in the Call from Home pool. Patient calls from the previous night are shared with the primary team. The most interesting patient from the patients admitted from previous call night is presented by the post-call PGY2. The Chief resident and the attending focus the discussion and summarize teaching points. This is meant to be a case based interactive discussion involving the attending, residents, and students

**Competencies addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**

- 2) **Rotation Schedule:** The PGY3 participates in Neuroradiology and Neurology Subspecialty education activities/programs as follows:

<b>Weekday</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Time</b>
Monday am	EEG Reading SVA	10:00 am to 11:30 am
Monday pm	General Neurology Clinic	1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Tuesday am	Neuroradiology	8:30 am to 12:00 noon
Tuesday pm	Movement Disorders Clinic	1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Wednesday	Core Didactics, UCLA Westwood	8:30 am to 1:00 pm
Wednesday pm	Independent Study	1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

Assistance with inpatient service

Thursday am	Neuroradiology Conference General Neurology Clinic	8:30 am to 12:00 noon 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm
Friday am	EEG Reading SVA Clinical Case Conference West LA Neurology Grand Rounds Neurobehavior Clinic	9:00 am to 10:30 am 11:00 am to 12:00 noon 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm

**Competencies addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**

## 2) Didactic Conferences:

- **Grand Rounds** at WLA-VA is a weekly conference organized by the chief resident at the West LA VA. Guest speakers give clinically based lectures on Fridays from 12:00 noon to 1:00 p.m.  
**Competencies addressed: 1, 2, 3, and 6.**
- **Clinical Case Conference** is given weekly by residents rotating at the West LA VA (assigned by the West LA VA Chief resident). Clinical cases are presented with review of the literature and recommended practice parameters.  
**Competencies addressed: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 6.**
- **Neuroradiology Conference** is on Thursday 8:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m.. In this conference Drs. Hathout and Elsaden present organized neuroradiology topics (with film examples).  
**Competencies addressed: 2, 3, and 6.**
- **Resident Update Meetings** are scheduled twice monthly. This forum is used to discuss active issues in the residency program: residents learning progress, staffing issues and curriculum changes.  
**Competencies addressed: 4, 5, and 6.**

**\*\* In addition, all residents rotating at the West LA VA in the Outpatient and Subspecialty Rotation are expected to attend and benefit from the competency based curriculum or DIDACTIC THREAD covered in the Wednesday lecture series (Grand Rounds, Core Curriculum, Resident Update Meetings, Journal Club, Neuroanatomy Case Review, and NOC).**

### Principal Educational Goals and Objectives:

- Provide the resident with additional experience in outpatient neurology:
  - General Neurology
  - Cognitive and Behavioral Neurology
  - Memory Disorders (Dementia)
  - Movement disorders
- Provide an in depth exposure to Neuroradiology at the West LA VA with education about the interpretation of MRI, MRA, CT, CT Angiography, Conventional Angiography, and PET Scan.
- To have the PGY3 remain an integral member of the inpatient neurology team at the VA with all the associated educational benefits.
- To expose the resident the systems issues involved in managing patients with general neurological disorders within the Veteran's Administration Health Care system.

- To provide the resident with experience in the management of patients with movement disorders under the supervision of movement disorder specialist (again within the VA Healthcare system with its associated systems issues and patient population).
- To provide the resident with experience in the management of patients with cognitive and neurobehavioral disorders under the supervision of subspecialty neurologist (again within the VA Healthcare system with its associated systems issues and patient population).

**Recommendation Resources:**

- Tourtellotte Neurological Library
- VA Medical Library with a very helpful librarian
- Media Library (for preparation of lectures slides, and the use of laptop computers and projectors).
- Online resources and data bases

**Suggested References:**

- 1) Neurology in Clinical Practice; edited by Walter G. Bradley, DM, FRCP and Robert B. Daroff, MD, et. al.
- 2) Principles of Neurology; Raymond Adams, Maurice Victor, Alan Ropper
- 3) Merritts Textbook of Neurology
- 4) Neurological Differential Diagnosis; John Phillip Patten
- 5) Localization in Clinical Neurology; Paul W. Brazis, MD, Joseph C. Masdeu, MD, and Jose Biller, MD
- 6) Diagnostic Neuroradiology; Anne G. Osborn, MD, FACR
- 7) Computer access to internet sources and the UCLA Website with available links to the following resources: Pub Med, Medline, Harrison's On Line, MD Consult, STAT, Biomedical Library

**Evaluation Methods:**

- At the end of the rotation the attending faculty that have worked with the resident team are asked to fill out a comprehensive evaluation form that is based on the core competency areas and the goals/objectives listed above. These evaluations are compiled and reviewed with each resident biannually.
- The residents and medical students assess the performance of each member of rotating health care team by completing peer evaluations. These peer evaluations are compiled and reviewed with each resident biannually.
- Residents are asked to assess the faculty mentors that they have worked with as well as the overall rotation, again with the use of a written evaluation form.
- Resident Update Meetings, Residency Training Committee meetings, and Resident retreats provide an ongoing forum for recommending curricular or structural changes in the rotation.

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