

Pediatric Neurology Residency
Competency Based Goals and Objectives

The pediatric neurology residency at Washington University will consist of a combination of inpatient and outpatient experiences designed to provide resident physicians with comprehensive exposure to a wide variety of neurologic disorders with emphasis on those encountered in the pediatric population. Throughout residency, residents will actively participate in all aspects of patient care, attend educational didactic sessions, and acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to effectively and independently manage pediatric neurologic disorders. The goals and objectives for the pediatric neurology resident program are as follows:

Patient Care. Provide family centered patient care that is developmentally and age appropriate, compassionate, and effective for the treatment of health problems and the promotion of health.

Objectives:

- Perform an accurate, complete, and specific patient history and perform an accurate and complete examination for recognition of neurologic disorders
- Integrate history and physical examination with medical knowledge to arrive at a differential diagnosis and plan
- Obtain and interpret diagnostic testing appropriate for each patient
- Generate an informed diagnosis using the most current pathophysiologic explanations
- Use evidence-based treatment guidelines to inform treatment decisions
- Provide timely, compassionate service and seek appropriate consultation and support in the evaluation and treatment of neurological disorders

Medical Knowledge. Understand the scope of established and evolving biomedical, clinical, epidemiological, and social-behavioral knowledge needed by a pediatric neurologist; demonstrate the ability to acquire, critically interpret, and apply this knowledge in patient care.

Objectives:

- Understand current concepts of therapy including pharmacologic (mechanism of action, drug-interaction, side effects) and non-pharmacologic interventions for the management of pediatric neurological conditions
- Demonstrate understanding of the basic and neuroscience background of neurological medicine and apply this knowledge to the clinical care of patients
- Explain and examine the interaction of neurological disease with other organ systems and with other medical illnesses
- Demonstrate knowledge of the most current pathophysiological explanations for neurological disorders

Interpersonal and Professional Communication. Demonstrate interpersonal and communication skills that result in information exchange and partnering with patients, their families, and professional associates.

Objectives:

- Interact in a collegial way with all members of the health care team with goal of providing optimal patient care
- Communicate effectively with patients and their families to obtain clinically relevant information and deliver diagnosis and treatment plan in an easily understood and culturally sensitive manner
- Maintain comprehensive, timely, and legible medical records
- Communicate effectively with consulting colleagues and health care professionals

Professionalism. Demonstrate a commitment to carry out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diversity.

Objectives:

- Understand appropriate and inappropriate communication behavior and leadership characteristics
- Demonstrate appropriate nonverbal behaviors
- Commit to carrying out professional responsibility
- Protect patient privacy
- Demonstrate sensitivity to race, gender, ethnic background, religion, sexual orientation, and other social factors in dealing with patient care and interactions with other providers and other learners
- Treat colleagues at all levels with respect

Practice-based Learning and Improvement. Demonstrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for continuous self-assessment, using scientific methods and evidence to investigate, evaluate, and improve one's patient care practice.

Objectives:

- Understand and teach the utility and appropriate use of specialty procedures including MR, CT, EEG, evoked potentials, sleep studies, EMG/NCS, and CSF evaluations
- Prioritize clinical responsibilities, provide timely service, and seek appropriate consultation and support when necessary
- Integrate feedback from preliminary diagnostic errors to improve diagnostic accuracy
- Identify strengths, deficiencies, and limits to knowledge and expertise
- Access learning sources (textbooks, medical literature, online resources) to fill gaps in knowledge that are identified during case discussions
- Participate in the education of students, residents, and other health care professionals

Systems Based Practice. Understand how to practice quality health care and advocate for patients within the context of the health care system.

Objectives:

- Understand the responsibility of the physician to the patient, the practice, and the overall health care system

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- Understand the concepts of cost containment and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of care to the pediatric neurology patient
- Develop methods for ensuring that the physician and the healthcare team use scarce resources in a sound, thoughtful, and cost-effective manner
- Develop necessary skills required for the independent practice of neurological care