

Kaweah Health GME Ultrasound G & O: IM

Overview

The goal of the point-of-care ultrasound (POCUS) curriculum is to provide a practical and didactic experience to enable internal medicine residents to develop competency in foundational POCUS applications relevant to internal medicine practice. Residents will develop competency in ultrasound physics, image generation, image acquisition, interpretation, documentation, and clinical integration. This curriculum is designed in alignment with ACGME Internal Medicine Milestones and with published internal medicine POCUS curriculum guidance supporting structured training, supervised scanning, and competency-based assessment. Review www.kaweahem.com/ultrasound for complete details.

By completion of the required POCUS experience, internal medicine residents will be able to:

- Patient Care (PC): Select and perform focused ultrasound examinations relevant to internal medicine care, obtain, interpret and integrate findings into bedside diagnosis.
- Medical Knowledge (MK): Describe ultrasound physics, probe selection, machine controls, artifacts, and normal versus common pathologic findings.
- Interpersonal and Communication Skills (ICS): Communicate POCUS findings and uncertainty clearly to supervising physicians and document examinations appropriately.
- Professionalism (PROF): Use POCUS within the scope of training, recognize limitations, perform additional evaluations when indicated, and follow documentation processes.
- Practice-Based Learning and Improvement (PBLI): Incorporate direct observation, image review, simulation, and QA feedback to improve image acquisition and interpretation.
- Systems-Based Practice (SBP): Use POCUS to support more efficient bedside decision-making, improve procedural safety, and follow institutional workflow for study review, and documentation.

Residents should, upon completion of this rotation, feel comfortable continuing to apply foundational ultrasound skills in internal medicine settings using the same ultrasound platform and workflow, e.g. the ICU. They should understand the practical operation of the ultrasound machine and the Sonosite Synchronicity workflow sufficiently to perform focused studies, document findings, and submit them to their attendings for review.

Scheduling

- Perform scanning shifts every weekday except for Thursday afternoons when there is image review and when required to attend IM conference.

Scanning Responsibilities

- Develop competency in foundational POCUS applications relevant to internal medicine, including cardiac, pulmonary, abdominal, renal and bladder, venous, soft tissue, musculoskeletal, ocular, bowel, and selected procedural applications.
- Perform an average of one exam per hour x 8 hours during the first week.
- Perform an average of two exams per hour x 8 hours for the second through fourth week.
- The total number of exams required is decreased by any GME excused days off, e.g. wellness days.
- Perform the first and last exam respectively within 30 minutes of the start and end of the shift.
- Know how to assign oneself, perform, interpret, document, and assign studies to the ED attending.
- Scan with the ultrasound faculty and/or fellow when they are present and with the ED patient's attending physician when they are not present. These studies will subsequently undergo QA.
- Be listed as the primary performer for at least 75% of the exams.
- For each exam, there can be multiple observers, but only the primary performer and one additional performer get credit toward their total number required for successful completion of the rotation.
- After completing a scan, use Connect Messenger to notify the attending that the exam is complete and place a brief note stating "POCUS complete" in the ED progress note.
- Demonstrate commitment to research by enrolling patients in any ongoing ultrasound research when appropriate and feasible.
- Make up missed or tardy shifts at the discretion of both the ultrasound and IM program directors.
- Demonstrate familiarity with the ultrasound machine and Sonosite Synchronicity workflow sufficient to perform focused studies, document findings and submit them to their attending for review.

For each core application area, the resident will be able to:

- Identify relevant anatomy and sonoanatomy.
- Select the appropriate probe, preset, and machine settings for the examination being performed.
- Acquire standard views and optimize image quality with appropriate supervision.

- Distinguish normal from common pathologic findings at a focused internal medicine level.
- Recognize indeterminate or concerning findings that require further evaluation.

Passing Requirements for Rotation Include

- Complete all required modules in the 4-week POCUS 101 Course.
- Perform a minimum of 225 scans as outlined above.
- Attend program-specific conference days, journal clubs, and image review QA sessions.
- Set up an account in Sim Lab BodyWorks Eve and perform 5 or more exams in each topic.
- Maintain equipment using “CLEAR” (Clean, Locate, Energize, Augment, Remove).
- Through QA review and direct observation, demonstrate the ability to obtain and interpret images for foundational internal medicine POCUS applications.
- Demonstrate sufficient familiarity with the ultrasound machine and Sonosite Synchronicity workflow to continue applying ultrasound skills using the same platform in different settings, including performing studies, documenting findings and submitting them for review.
- Successful completion of this rotation will contribute evidence toward achievement of relevant ACGME Internal Medicine Milestones in patient care, medical knowledge, communication, professionalism, practice-based learning, and systems-based practice.

