

Mercy Medical Student Rotation

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ED Main # 312-567-2200

Welcome to Mercy! This document is designed to serve as a reference prior to your ED rotation so when you start on the first day you are ready to hit the ground running. There is a checklist at the bottom of this document that will help you orient yourself to the department. Please arrive 30 minutes early to your first shift and complete the checklist. If you have questions about the system or the location of any items referenced in this document don't hesitate to ask an EM resident or one of the attendings

Attire: During shifts you must wear matching scrubs with a white coat. No jeans allowed at conference.

Sick days: If you are sick or have a life emergency and are unable to attend your shift please contact **-Anita Goyal 847-334-7476** immediately. If you need to change a shift please contact [Lisa Baxter at 312-567-2431 or email \[Lisa.Baxter@mercy-chicago.org\]\(mailto:Lisa.Baxter@mercy-chicago.org\)](#)

Parking: There is an employee lot at Michigan and 26th, so during the day park there (just push the button on the box and let security know you're a student and they will buzz you in; once you get your badge it will let you in, and the gate comes up automatically to leave). You can park in the lot across from the ED for any shifts that start after 7pm. **If you leave a shift at night, please have security escort you to your vehicle if parked across Michigan.**

Meals:

There is a cafeteria on the second floor and a break room that includes a microwave and refrigerator. Please let your attending or resident know when you would like to leave to grab food to make sure it is an appropriate time.

First Day:

When you arrive introduce yourself to the attending in the department. There are 2 pods in the ED, if you are the only medical student in the Department you will likely be on Team B. However, this can change when multiple medical students are scheduled for overlapping shifts. The attendings or residents in the department can help direct you to the pod you will work on for the day. You will present to attendings along with second and third year EM residents.

Computer Login:

Log-in information: if you have not yet received it, you can call the HELP desk either at the time of your orientation or at the start of your shift. The number is H-E-L-P on the phones, just tell them you're a student and they'll give you what you need to know.

Signing up for Patients:

When a green dot appears next to a patient's name on the tracking board that patient is waiting to be seen by a provider. **Let your attending or resident know that you would like to sign up for that patient** and write MS3 or MS4 in the comment section on the tracking board so the other residents know that patient is yours. **If you walk in the room and the patient is sicker than expected, not breathing well, anaphylaxis, seizing, etc, find a senior resident/attending/call for help.**

Patient Encounters:

The Emergency Department is a busy place and as a result patient encounters are more fast paced than on a general medical ward. Expect to spend approximately 15 minutes in a patient's room gathering a history before leaving to collect your thoughts. If a shift gets busy, residents may join you in the room and have you present in front of the patient.

Presentations:

EM presentations are more focused than medicine presentations. Attendings will expect a clear HPI which includes any pertinent past medical history, surgical history and social history. Do not forget to include vital signs in the physical exam. If they haven't been done, find the nurse to help you or take them yourself. The assessment and plan should include at

least 3 conditions on your differential and the associated workup. Don't forget to check up on your patients and follow up on all tests/labs.

Notes:

You will not write notes on every patient. Sometimes an attending or resident may have you write an HPI for your patient. If not, do not worry about completing your own note. Instead take that time to read up on topics related to your patient's diagnosis.

Codes:

If there is a code that comes into the ED the best place to be is in line to do chest compressions. This will allow you to participate and to be in the center of the activity to observe how a code is run.

Other Tips:

Ask questions - seniors and nurses have done this longer than you. If you've never placed an NGT, never popped an abscess, never sewn a lip laceration, ask somebody! Our job as seniors/attendings is to help you out with that or at least get somebody who has. Never feel bad that you don't know how to do something. If a patient looks sick, GET AN ATTENDING OR SENIOR RESIDENT. You'll never be blamed for pulling us in just to check out the situation. We'd much rather have you do that too much and be wrong than misjudge a sick patient.

Look at all of your own X-Rays and EKG's. Even if the attending says they looked at the EKG, you need to look at it too. You might notice something they didn't and you need to see many normal EKG's so you know when an EKG is abnormal, same with XRs.

Educational Experience

The benefits of rotating through the ED include learning to work up undifferentiated patients with many different pathologies. This is a great opportunity to work on building differentials and learning to differentiate sick vs not sick patients. Take full advantage and see as many patients as possible.

Decision tools are used frequently in the ED to help risk stratify patients. Below is a list of common decision tools to be familiar with prior to your rotation. This list is not exhaustive, but a good place to start.

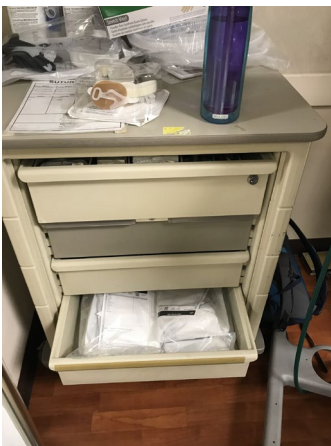
- HEART score
- PERC rule
- Well's Criteria for PE
- Well's Criteria for DVT
- Canadian C-Spine Rule
- Nexus C-Spine Rule
- Canadian Head CT Rule
- New Orleans Head CT Rule
- PCARN Criteria

Below are some useful FOAM websites that provide a helpful review of common topics in Emergency Medicine:

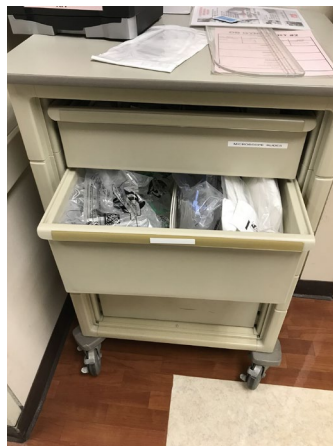
- [Life in the Fast Lane](#)
- [EMCrit](#)
- [Rebel EM](#)
- [Pediatric EM Morsels](#)
- [EM Docs](#)

Department Checklist

- ❑ Mercy has 25 beds with an occasional addition of up to 4 hallway beds
- ❑ The break room is located in the hallway behind the ED and has a microwave, refrigerator and bathroom. **Code 2200#**. You need a badge to get back into the ED, the side door has a keypad, **Code 850** to enter.
- ❑ There are 2 pods with computers, Pod A is next to Room 1 and Pod B is next to Room 21
- ❑ Evaluation forms are found in a folder located on the counter of Pod B. Please ask a resident if you are unable to locate. These will be placed in Dr. Baines mailbox at the end of the shift. The attending or resident will know where to place the form.
- ❑ Each pod contains wooden shelving with slots for each room number.
 - ❑ You can find patient stickers, EMS reports and nursing home papers in the slots. Please place prescriptions for discharge in the slot and any consent forms.
 - ❑ This area also stores copies of the forms for work/school excuse, AMA discharge, procedure consent, blood consent.
 - ❑ You can find stool guaiac cards, developer and US probe covers in here.
- ❑ There are 2 suture supply carts, one at each end of the department, these contain the suture kits. ***Located between rooms 15/16 and 3/4.**
- ❑ There are 2 OB carts at each end of the department that contain speculums and GC/Chlamydia swabs. ***Located between rooms 24/25, and on the wall near the sliding doors next to room 1.**



(Suture)



(OB)

Tower -->



- ❑ **Airway supplies** are located on the crash carts. The CMAC is located near bed 14.
- ❑ The ultrasound is plugged in next to room 10.
- ❑ Each room has a tower with supplies including IVs, vacutainers, flushes, lube, tongue depressors, suction, nasal cannula/non-rebreathers. Please familiarize yourself with the supplies in each drawer.
- **There are 3 supply closets**

- ❑ In the back of the department **next to Room 23**. This closet has all of the kits for lines, lumbar punctures etc. All of the sterile gloves, irrigation supplies, syringes, needles etc. are also in this closet. There is an index posted in the closet that gives a location of all supplies. **Code 321**
- ❑ In the front of the department **next to Room 1**. This closet has suture material and long angiocaths for US guided IVS. **Code 321**
- ❑ **Next to room 2** in the corner. This closet contains nutrition for patients and the slit lamp. **Code 321**.

Evaluation forms are in the RED folder by room 25. Please give 1 to each Attending that you work with.