

Welcome to your rotation in Plastic Surgery at St Joseph's, and welcome to our team. This will be a valuable learning experience for you. We look forward to helping you accomplish your learning goals during this rotation.

Dr. Matthew McRae is the SJHH CTU director and staff plastic surgeon at St Joseph's. During your rotation, if you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact him at matthewcmcrae@gmail.com.

The purpose of this document is to outline the structure of the rotation and to highlight what is expected of you.

PREPARATION

Before starting, Clerks must be familiar with how to:

- Write and Dictate a Consult Note
- Write Progress Notes during rounds
- Write Admission Orders
- Write an OR Note and Postoperative Orders
- Dictate a Discharge Summary

COMMON CASES	SKILLS YOU WILL LEARN
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skin and soft tissue infections • Skin cancer • Hand trauma • Nerve compression syndromes • Reconstruction after cancer or trauma • Breast reconstruction 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Caring for post-operative patients • Writing notes/orders • Performing procedures under sterile conditions • Describing and interpreting X-rays • History and PE for common cases • suturing

To help you with this, review the document **“Writing Notes and Dictations”**. Speak to the resident on the morning of your Orientation if you need more help/information.

Dovetale training session must be completed at St. Joe's. Do not miss your training session

SCHEDULE

- The Chief Resident will email the weekly schedule to the team usually on Sunday evening
- You may be “assigned” to a particular staff, but you will probably spend time with all staff during your rotation
- You are required to participate in Morning Rounds regardless of what you have been scheduled to do that day. Discuss with the chief resident as there can be exceptions.

The work day typically ends at 5 pm. Learning in surgery does not always happen during the typical day. Do not go home without checking in with a resident. There may be issues/ patients/consults going on that you aren't aware of and your help may be needed. Teamwork at St Joe's is an essential part of our identity, and you are an important part of our team while with us.

DRESS CODE

- When wearing scrubs, please wear a white coat when possible. If you are assigned to the OR or Minor Procedures, wear scrubs. If you are assigned to clinic, wear regular clothes or a lab coat over your scrubs.

PATIENT LIST

- Our patient list is kept in a secure place and you will be given access prior to your rotation start. It is a good idea to have a look through the list before your rotation begins.

- All members of the team are responsible for keeping this list up to date.

ROUNDS

- On your first day, you will meet with a resident before morning rounds for an Orientation. He/she will contact you with the location and time.
- The team meets for morning rounds on the floor of SJHH between 0700h-0715h. The Senior/Chief Resident leads rounds.

Prior to rounds, Clerks will print a copy of the patient list, record the vital signs and bloodwork of each patient, and photocopy this document for all team members. (At your Orientation, a resident will show you how to do this if you are unfamiliar.)

During morning rounds, you will be expected to pick up charts and **write Progress Notes** and orders for our patients. A resident will review and co-sign your orders.

You are expected to be on time. If there are unforeseen circumstances causing you to be late, text or call a resident to let them know.

CONSULTS

- If you have been asked to see a consult, perform an appropriate History and Physical Examination and review relevant bloodwork and imaging *prior* to reviewing with a Resident. Try to come up with an Assessment and Plan as well; you will learn more if you challenge yourself.
- All consults must be dictated.
- **Call a resident for help if your patient is sick or unstable.**

TEACHING ROUNDS

- Once a week, the staff that is on call that weekend, will provide a teaching session. You may be asked to present a short presentation on a topic during that time.

CALL

- Call is home-call.
- Clerks are not required to do call, but you are encouraged to join if you are interested (esp. those doing electives). Call is a great way to learn more, see more cases and to spend more time with the staff.
- If you are doing overnight call with another service, you must give the senior resident appropriate advanced notice of when you may be post call. It is not appropriate to tell him/her the day of.

Advice...

- **Ask lots of questions.** We meet Clerks who are at all stages of Clerkship with variable amounts of experience. If you are just starting out and need more help with writing notes or orders, ask. If you don't understand why we are using a specific type of dressing, ask. If you don't know how to do a hand examination, ask.

- **Read around cases.** Picking 3-5 small topics to review around a case you saw each day will add up to significant learning by the end of your Clerkship. Do this regardless of what rotation you are on.
- **Prepare the night before an OR.** This is something surgical residents do every night... you will learn more from the case (and it never hurts to impress your staff!). Ask a resident to show you where you can find the next day's OR list. Reviewing the anatomy is always a helpful place to start.
- **Practice, practice, practice.** We will give you plenty of tips and tricks on how to improve your technical skills.