

UC Davis Medical Center  
Office of Graduate Medical Education  
Resident Roles and Responsibilities ~ Ophthalmology

Last Reviewed: January 2016

**SUBJECT** Department of Ophthalmology Resident Clinical Responsibilities

**PURPOSE** To provide a general overview of the resident roles, responsibilities and functions while on rotation in the UC Davis Medical Center Department of Ophthalmology. This is meant to address issues relating to degrees of independent clinical practice, interactions with and supervision by faculty, performance of procedures and interactions with or supervision of other housestaff or medical students. It is expected that residents will demonstrate ongoing maturity during each training year and will progressively transition into the next level by the end of prior academic year.

**POLICY** In general, the roles, responsibilities and functions of a Department of Ophthalmology resident, per training year, are as follows:

**PGY-II**

- Responsible for the evaluation, diagnostic studies, and therapeutic plan of the patients on their service under supervision of senior residents or attending staff.
- Emphasis is on quality of patient evaluation and care.
- Will have experience with basic surgical instruments.
- Emphasis on gaining experience with full spectrum of procedures, honing proficiency, and balancing quality of patient evaluation and care with improved overall efficiency. All surgical procedures require supervision by senior residents or attending staff.
- No responsibility for supervision or direction of decisions of other residents or medical students.
- Responsible for being familiar with patients and serving as a resource for day-by-day patient data.
- Decisions regarding invasive procedures, change in plans, discharge or problems are discussed in-depth with the attending. Specialized diagnostic studies, uncommon therapeutic interventions, and use of consultants, must be discussed with the attending prior to initiation.
- Responsible for maintaining medical records.

**PGY-III and PGY-IV**

- Practice supervisory role with increased teaching, consultative and research activities.
- In addition to the technical procedures for PG-II, may carry out surgical and diagnostic procedures without supervision as approved by attending staff.
- May attempt or initiate procedures, with attending approval.
- May assist with the attempt, or initiation of, procedures by more junior level housestaff, with attending approval (and if so certified by the residency training program, as appropriate.)
- Responsible for being familiar with patients and serve as the attendings' principal resource for day-by-day patient data.
- Responsible for maintaining medical records.

#### PGY-V

- May carry out major surgical procedures and may carry out all diagnostic procedures without direct supervision.
- Responsible for supervising junior residents.
- Responsible for maintaining medical records.

#### Fellows

Fellows generally are trainees beyond their initial residency period. They are expected to continue to gain knowledge, procedural skills, and judgment in their chosen field of specialty study, building on their initial residency base and working both with inpatients and outpatients. Fellows will learn indications and complications of specialty procedures, appropriate use of diagnostic studies in their area, and proper use of medications. Progressive development of solid clinical judgment will be expected. They are supervised by attending physicians and may supervise residents.