Clerkship Design

- To increase the number of seated cases, this student’s time on general surgery was divided between general surgery, vascular surgery, otolaryngology, and hand surgery. For each specialty the student was scheduled for multiple days with specific attendings to maximize continuity and enhance communication about accommodation needs.

- In the OR, the student was able to participate in a variety of cases. The articulating wheelchair allowed for elevated in seated positions. The majority of suturing occurred during hand and otolaryngology cases. Both hand and instrument ties were allowed to be used for best positioning.

- During anesthesiology the student was able to successfully mask via the two handed technique intubate using direct and video laryngoscopy, insert IV, and assist with ultrasound guided nerve blocks.

- In the urology procedure suite with hydraulic tables the student was able to assist in cystoscopies and ureteral stent removals. With proper table and bed placement the student was able to insert foley catheters using clean technique at the bedside.

A third year medical student with a thoracic spinal cord injury successfully completed an eight-week surgical clerkship at the Department of Surgery, Rocky Mountain Regional Veterans Affairs Medical Center completing all required procedural and clinical skills utilizing reasonable accommodation. The student achieved a grade of honors for the rotation.

Acknowledgment: Teresa Jones MD MSA advisor, Denver VA Department of Surgery

https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jsurg.2021.10.009
References