PIMC POSH
General Surgery
Operating Room Observer Instructions
Last Updated: February 11, 2014

1. Please schedule observation at least 24 hours in advance with your preceptor and Dr. Powell.
2. Please prepare for the operating room by reading the appropriate PowerPoint presentation (available from your preceptor or Dr. Powell), and, if you wish, anatomy and physiology books. The surgeon can help you with this.

   The POSH Education Presentations are available on the POSH website at: http://azhin.org/pimc/posh
   Go to the Staff Education Library tab.
   - For colon operations (right colectomy, sigmoid resection, low anterior resection, and abdominoperineal resection): review Essentials of Bowel Surgery
   - For colonoscopy: review Essentials of Colonoscopy
   - For thyroid and parathyroid operations: review Essentials of Neck Surgery
   - For cholecystectomy: review Essentials of Biliary Surgery
   - For nephrectomy or adrenalectomy: review Essentials of Renal and Adrenal Surgery

3. You may be observing surgery or endoscopy usually with Dr. Powell or Dr. Cusick, but other surgeons may be available as well.
4. Please arrive to the OR 15 minutes before your first scheduled case.
5. Introduce yourself to the OR front desk staff. They will show you the OR attire (scrubs, hat) and where to change.
6. Please change into scrubs.
7. Please find your assigned surgeon. The surgeon will introduce you to the patient and ask the patient’s permission for you to observe.
8. For endoscopies, you do not need a mask. For operations, you do. The surgeon will clarify this for you so you are in the correct attire.
9. Nothing is sterile in endoscopy, so you do not need to worry about contaminating anything. The surgeon will tell you where to stand to see the monitor best.
10. If you are observing an operation, be very careful to stay away from anything BLUE (which is sterile). The surgeon and operating room staff will explain to you where to stand and how to avoid contaminating anything. This is VERY important!
11. Be prepared to ask and answer questions! It will be a much more valuable educational experience if you are prepared and engaged. YOU WILL BE ASKED QUESTIONS BY DR. POWELL, SO PLEASE BE READY! 😊

Any questions: email Dr. Powell at anathea.powell@ihs.gov