

ORTHOPEDIC (Ortho) SURGERY AND NEUROSURGERY (NSGY) SPINE CALL GUIDELINES

Clarification of Resident Responsibilities regarding Spine Consults:

Date: September 2019 by Dr. Steven Theiss

UAB Main Consults

- NSGY Spine residents and faculty are on-call for the first half of the month
 - 1st – 15th of the month (or 1st - 16th in months with 31 days)
 - All Spine consults during this time are covered by on-call NSGY Spine residents and staffed with on-call NSGY Spine faculty
- Ortho Spine residents and faculty are on-call for the second half of the month
 - 16th – 30th (or 17th – 31st in months with 31 days)
 - All Spine consults during this time are covered by on-call Ortho Spine residents and staffed with on-call Ortho Spine faculty
- Guidelines for call:
 - If a patient has a complaint related to a prior recent surgical evaluation or treatment by one of the established UAB spine surgeons, it should be seen by that attending's service
 - Example: Dr. Okor's microdisc patient now complains of positional headaches and has drainage from the wound should be evaluated by on-call NSGY and discussed with Dr. Okor
 - If the patient has been seen previously as a consult and is being treated for that complaint, either operatively or non-operatively, they will continue to be the responsibility of the original treating service
 - Examples:
 - Dr.Theiss is consulted for a facet fracture and the patient was placed into an Aspen. The patient now presents with displacement of that fracture. This patient should be evaluated by on-call Ortho and discussed with Dr. Theiss.
 - Non-operatively managed lumbar discitis presents with progression of infection and new deficits requiring operative intervention. This patient should be evaluated by on-call Ortho and discussed with Dr. Theiss.
 - If a previously established patient has a new complaint which is unrelated to prior treatments or evaluations, it should be addressed by the service and attending on call (i.e. previous cervical myelopathy patient treated in 2018 with an ACDF by Dr. Theiss now has an operative thoracic spine burst fracture after a trauma while Dr. Okor is on-call should be evaluated by the on-call NSGY Spine team and discussed with Dr. Okor) If the patient specifically requests their established surgeon, the established service should be contacted to see if they are able to care for the patient. If the established service is unable (attending out of town, etc) the service on call will assume care of the new complaint.

- If a patient has been treated in the remote past by a UAB spine surgeon but has not otherwise maintained care, that patient will be seen and managed by the service and attending on call
- Any discrepancies or exceptions to the above patient care guidelines should be further escalated to the on-call attending to discuss additional recommendations and prevent delays in patient care/consultation evaluations.

UAB Highlands Consults

- NSGY Spine residents and faculty are on-call for the first half of the month
 - 1st – 15th of the month (or 1st - 16th in months with 31 days)
 - Currently, there is no on-call NSGY resident at Highlands Hospital. As such, during this time all consults requiring formal evaluation should be transferred to UAB Main hospital for NSGY evaluation and staffed with on-call NSGY Spine faculty
- Ortho Spine residents and faculty are on-call for the second half of the month
 - 16th – 30th (or 17th – 31st in months with 31 days)
 - Consults will be seen by on-call Highlands resident and staffed with on-call Spine faculty
 - If the consult is deemed operative, this consult will be transferred to UAB Main hospital for operative intervention

Veterans Affairs (VA) Consults

- All Spine consults at the VA hospital are covered by on-call NSGY Spine residents and faculty

Children's of Alabama (COA) Consults

- All Spine consults at COA are covered by on-call NSGY Spine residents and faculty