



Lessons I am Learning in My First Year of Practice

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Cancer | Cardiology & Heart Surgery | Geriatrics | Gynecology
Nephrology | Orthopedics | Pulmonology | Urology



Disclaimer

- Academic Institution
- Protected time for basic science research
- No RVU goals
- Did not stay where I trained

1. Being nice/flexible will get you far!

- Nobody shows up to work wanting to do a bad job.
- Just because you were trained a certain way, doesn't mean there isn't something you won't like better.
- If you are nice to people, they will be nice to you!



2. You don't know everything.

- It's ok to ask for help.
- Have a plan.
- It's ok to ask someone junior to you for help.

3. You don't know what you don't know.

- Prepare for your cases – but expect that you won't be prepared for everything.
- Where you work may not have the same instruments/wires/catheters/etc. as where you trained.



4. You know more than you think you do.

- Think about what your center excelled at.
 - Familiar with TCAR?
 - Used ZFEN?

5. If you want to start something new, have a plan.

- Set yourself up for success.
 - Proper training
 - Proper approval

6. You have to bill for things.

- There are a LOT of things to know about billing.
 - Global billing periods.
 - How to maximize the amount you can bill on clinic visits.
 - How to maximize the amount you can bill on consults.



7. You look young.

- Be prepared to answer the question, “How many of these have you done?”
- Patients will appreciate your honesty.



8. “Say yes to everything”

- This advice has its merits!
 - I’ve gotten great cases and great opportunities by taking this advice.
 - I’ve been “volun-told” to do things I don’t really want to do.
 - I have gained opportunities from this.
- Be realistic about your time and what you can actually do.
 - Don’t make it someone else’s problem to find time for you to do something.

9. Be conservative

- “If I kill a patient, people blame the patient. If you kill a patient, people blame you.”
- If you’re doing a “risky” case, have a partner help you.

10. Take a vacation.

- The worst thing you can do is burn out early.
- Keep your family happy.





Thank You!