

# Consults

To place an effective consult, it is important that before you call, you place your order in Epic for the consult, know the question you are going to ask (figure this out with your residents prior to calling the consult), then knowing the patient by reviewing their H&P and chart, seeing and examining the patient, and reviewing the last clinic and operative notes if applicable, and then mentioning any outpatient providers.

For GI consults: make sure to note any melena, hematochezia, current/rrioriH/H, plts, coags, transfusions, past EGD/colo findings, vitals, IV access, NSAID/ASA use, rectal exam findings; for cirrhosis any prior work up, social history, complications, and decompensation

For Cardiology consults: make sure you mention recent and old ECG, telemetry, any prior stress/echo/cath results (know the anatomy), dry weight, biomarkers, and current cardiac meds

For Renal consults: make sure you note the baseline Cr, The CKD Stage, on/off HD, dialysis access, electrolyte management, current urinary output, nephrotoxins

For Oncology: make sure you know any known cancers w/stage/therapy history, clinical trial history, any biopsy results for any new diagnoses, current anticoagulatns, if on immunotherapy, on any service list

For infectious disease: make sure you note their current and past micro data, any possible sources, current/prior antibiotics (including # of days), the fever curve, hardware, travel, exposures

For Pulmonary, any imaging reuslts, social history, any prior work

up such as autoimmune findings, any prior and current o2 requirements, any PFTs

#### During the call

Call as early in the day as possible, ideally before noon, find out how to page using the paging directory. in your page, make sure to include the patient name, MRN, location, call back #, brief consult question +/- level of urgency. Avoid curbside questions. Tell the consultant the one word reason for your call (hematochezia, hemoptysis, hyponatremia, followed by a brief HPI, a clear explanation of the teams thinking and a clear and specific question.

#### After the call

invite the consultant to find you to relay their recommendations or tell them who will be covering for you. will often provide preliminary recommendations on phone, follow up recommendations in documentation and note later.