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Since its founding in 1869, the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) has served as an academic center of excellence. UNMC is the mother institution of one of the region's premier general surgery residency programs. The program provides residents with exposure to a diverse spectrum of practice settings. These include academic tertiary care, Veterans Affairs, large private practice, small private practice, international rotations, and rural settings. These diverse rotations provide the residents with the exposure needed to choose a career path.

A rural rotation of one month in PGY 3 has an approximate case volume greater than 80–100 cases. The rural rotation is undertaken at the Great Plains Regional Medical Center (GPRMC) in North Platte, NE. North Platte is approximately 270 miles from Omaha and is a leisurely four-hour drive. Accommodation is provided for our residents.

The GPRMC is a busy rural-based hospital with 116 beds, 10 operating rooms, and an annual case volume of 8,000 operative cases. The hospital is in a growth phase with plans for expansion. The GPRMC is a regional hub and caters to wide underserved areas with satellite clinics in many locations.

The surgery group at the GPRMC consists of four surgeons and the practice includes the entire spectrum of simple/complex open and minimally invasive general surgery cases with extensive endoscopy volumes. The endoscopy (upper and lower) experience includes both diagnostic and therapeutic with an annual average volume of approximately 800 cases. Because there is no gastroenterology service in the area, surgeons are responsible for endoscopy needs.

Several benefits of this rural rotation include:

- a. Allowing residents to experience the life of the rural surgeon.
- b. Providing residents with exposure to practice in a rural setting
- c. Providing exposure to the entire spectrum of general surgery in a small town setting.
- d. Providing enhanced endoscopy experience with both diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopies.
- e. Providing exposure to billing and coding practices in a private setting.

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