Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

List of EPAs for Anatomical Pathology

EPA Title	EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit
EPA 1: Conducting Clinico-Pathologic Conferences	Level 4
EPA 2: Handling of Gross Specimens	Level 4
EPA 3: Ensuring Clinical Quality in an Anatomic Pathology Laboratory	Level 4
EPA 4: Reporting of Microscopy	Level 4
EPA 5: Performing Intra-operative Diagnostic Analysis	Level 4

Entrustment Scale

Entrustment Level	Description
Level 1	Be present and observe, but no permission to enact EPA
Level 2	Practice EPA with direct (pro-active) supervision (supervisor to be present in the room)
Level 3	Practice EPA with indirect (re-active) supervision (supervisor need not be in the room but is present within the healthcare facility and quickly available for reactive / on-demand supervision)
Level 4	Unsupervised practice allowed (distant oversight) (supervisor is not present in the healthcare facility, but available on call to provide supervision remotely)
Level 5	May provide supervision to junior learners

Anatomical Pathology EPA 1

Click here to return to the list of titles

Title	**EPA 1 : Conducting Clinico-Pathologic Conferences**
Specifications and limitations	For this EPA, clinico-pathologic conferences include multi-disciplinary meetings and tumour boards. The pathologist is able to: 1. Incorporate evidence-based management, ancillary testing, prognosis and/or therapeutic recommendations when preparing the case. 2. Collate cases, clinical information, and issues pertinent to the meeting. 3. Organise and present pertinent findings at the meeting. 4. Contribute to case presentation by providing advice/opinion on questions raised by clinicians. 5. Follow-up on issues raised at the meeting.
	Limitations: Excludes multidisciplinary meetings and conferences that lack pathology input i.e., geriatrics grand rounds
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Anatomical Pathology EPA 2

Click here to return to the list of titles

Title	**EPA 2 : Handling of Gross Specimens**
Specifications and limitations	A pathologist is able to: 1. Match requisition and container(s) and/or specimen(s). 2. Systematically verify the adequacy of patient and clinical information (requisition adequacy and completeness such as documentation of ischemic time) to initiate laboratory evaluation of a specimen. 3. Assess and prepare surgical specimens for fixation if required. 4. Select and recognize the appropriate fixative type (formalin) and assess whether the quantity and size of the specimen container is appropriate. 5. Match patient identifiers on surgical specimen, requisition forms and blocks. 6. Dissect and sample surgical specimens (both fresh and formalin fixed). 7. Describe and compose appropriate reports (macroscopic or frozen section). 8. Obtaining gross photos of specimens as part of medical documentation. 9. Assess when to call reporting consultant pathologist to clarify issues.
	Limited to gross specimens that are sent to the anatomical/histopathology laboratory. Not applicable to mortuary specimens. Not applicable to quality related issues (covered in EPA 3)
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Anatomical Pathology EPA 3

Click here to return to the list of titles

Title	**EPA 3 : Ensuring Clinical Quality in an Anatomic Pathology Laboratory**
Specifications and limitations	The pathologist is able to: 1. Provide guidance and advice on utilization of tests, particularly biomarkers, specific to anatomical pathology. 2. Provide guidance and advice on method of specimen collection including usage of appropriate fixative, documentation of collection/ischemic times. 3. Find areas for improvement in test utilization for a system by understanding ordering rationale and clinical utility for specific patient populations. 4. Communicate with ordering providers to guide appropriate clinical testing. 5. Carry out specific quality and safety measures (e.g., diagnostic errors, laboratory errors, and “near misses”), including communication of error to clinicians, reporting of incident(s) or error(s)as per system policy, documentation of error, and investigation of processes leading to error (e.g., root cause analysis). 6. Participate in quality management by minimizing cross contamination and using standardized grossing templates and protocols as appropriate. 7. Apply quality management principles such as use of controls (e.g., internal external controls, proper fixatives, tissue) to ensure validity of findings. 8. Apply quality management principles in troubleshooting test failure. 9. Evaluating and interpreting quality data particularly those pertaining to biomarkers (e.g., analysis of EQA biomarker results, yearly statistics pertaining to biomarkers). 10. Participate in quality improvement meetings, risk management activities, safety initiatives.
	Limitations: Not applicable in other non-anatomical/surgical pathology laboratories i.e., chemical, forensic pathology or microbiology.
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Anatomical Pathology EPA 4

Click here to return to the list of titles

Title	**EPA 4 : Reporting of Microscopy**
Specifications and limitations	The pathologist is able to: 1. Obtains, prioritizes, and integrates the appropriate clinical information from electronic medical records and laboratory information system (LIS). 2. Recognize normal tissue and cellular histology. 3. Recognize histopathology of diseased tissue or tumours. 4. Identify and correlate the microscopic morphological features with the molecular profile of the tumour cells for diagnostic or prognostic tumour classification. 5. Combine clinical knowledge and histological examination to formulate clinicopathological correlations for optimal care and management. 6. Understand the principles of histochemical staining when ordering, performing and interpreting haematoxylin and eosin stain (H&E) and commonly employed special stains. The latter includes special stains to highlight or identify acid-fast bacilli, fungi, iron pigments, mucin, fat, muscle fibres, reticulin, elastin and collagen. 7. Report H&E stained sections of histopathology specimens. 8. Understand the principles of exfoliative and aspiration cytology, including collection, preparation, and interpretation of cytology specimens. 9. Order and report the appropriate ancillary tests (special stains, immunohistochemical stains and molecular tests) for diagnostic, prognostic, and predictive purposes. 10. Correlate the microscopic findings with the gross dissection findings and relevant clinical information. 11. Organizes relevant information and composes a report 12. Issue a full pathology report with diagnosis that contains relevant microscopic description, final diagnosis (with comments if required). The report should utilize appropriate reporting templates and contain clinically relevant diagnostic, prognostic, and predictive information. 13. Use up to date appropriate synoptic reports for complex cancer cases. 14. Create necessary amendments and / or addenda for surgical pathology reports.
	Limitations: Not applicable in other non-anatomical/surgical pathology laboratories i.e., chemical, forensic pathology or microbiology. Not applicable to quality related issues (covered in EPA 3)
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Anatomical Pathology EPA 5

Click here to return to the list of titles

Title	**EPA 5 : Performing Intra-operative Diagnostic Analysis**
Specifications and limitations	The pathologist is able to: 1. Explain the contraindications and limitations of frozen section, with deferral of the case when necessary. 2. Gather essential and accurate clinical information via electronic medical records. 3. Communicate with the clinician and medical technologist when necessary. 4. Identify and describe the gross findings succinctly. 5. Select the appropriate blocks for frozen section, including performing cytology imprints or smears where appropriate. 6. Complete frozen section report in a satisfactory manner, including integrating relevant clinical information where appropriate. 7. Organize, prioritize, and completes multiple frozen section cases responsibly within the appropriate turnaround time. 8. Receive feedback for patient care as well as practice-based learning and improvement.
	Limitations: Not applicable in other non-anatomical/surgical pathology laboratories i.e., chemical, forensic pathology or microbiology. Not applicable to quality related issues (covered in EPA 3)
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4