

## Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

### List of EPAs for Surgery in General

EPA Title	EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit
<a href="#">EPA 1: Running Surgical Outpatient Clinics</a>	Level 3a
<a href="#">EPA 2: Assisting Surgical Procedures</a>	Level 3a
<a href="#">EPA 3: Facilitating Ward Rounds</a>	Level 3a
<a href="#">EPA 4: Performing Calls</a>	Level 3a
<a href="#">EPA 5: Providing Pre- and Post-operative Assessment and Care</a>	Level 3b

### Entrustment Scale

Entrustment Level	Description
1	Be present and observe, but no permission to enact EPA
2	Practice EPA with direct (pro-active) supervision
3	Practice EPA with indirect (re-active) supervision
3a	With supervisor immediately available, all findings and decisions double checked
3b	With supervisor immediately available, key findings and decisions double checked
3C	With supervisor distantly available (e.g., by phone, next room), findings and decisions promptly reviewed.
4	Unsupervised practice allowed (distant oversight)
5	May provide supervision to junior learners

## **Surgery in General EPA 1 - Running Surgical Outpatient Clinics**

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Title	Running Surgical Outpatient Clinics
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA is applicable to surgical postings of duration 3 months or longer.</p> <p>This EPA contains the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Gather information: take history, perform physical examination</li><li>• Generate diagnosis</li><li>• Prioritise and order relevant investigations, and interpret investigations</li><li>• Formulate management plan, adjust management plan as needed</li><li>• Select patients appropriately for surgery</li><li>• Arrange anaesthetic assessment as required</li><li>• Counsel patient, obtain informed consent for procedure</li><li>• Escalate to a senior surgeon appropriately</li><li>• Make appropriate referrals to other specialties and/or allied health</li><li>• Book operative cases with appropriate urgency/priority, duration, and equipment and patient preparation</li></ul>
	<p>Limitations:</p> <p>Acutely unwell patients are excluded</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 3a

## Surgery in General EPA 2 - Assisting Surgical Procedures

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Title	Assisting Surgical Procedures
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA is applicable to surgical postings of duration 3 months or longer.</p> <p>This EPA contains the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review the operating list, accounting for case mix, skill mix, operating time, clinical priorities, and patient co-morbidity</li> <li>• Ensure the “Time-Out” / safety checklist (or equivalent) is completed for each patient</li> <li>• Understand when prophylactic antibiotics should be prescribed and follow local protocol</li> <li>• Synthesise the patient’s surgical condition, the technical details of the operation, comorbidities, and medication into an appropriate operative plan for the patient</li> <li>• Assist or carry out the operative procedures to the required level for the phase of training</li> <li>• Use judgement to adapt operative strategy to take account of pathological findings and any changes in clinical condition</li> <li>• Assist / undertake the operation in a technically safe manner, using time efficiently</li> <li>• Demonstrate application of knowledge and non-technical skills in the operating theatre, including situation awareness, decision-making, communication, leadership, and teamwork</li> <li>• Write a full operation note for each patient, ensuring inclusion of all post-operative instructions</li> <li>• Review all patients post-operatively</li> </ul>
	<p>Limitations: Nil</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 3a

## Surgery in General EPA 3 - Facilitating Ward Rounds

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Title	<b>Facilitating Ward Rounds</b>
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA is applicable to surgical postings of duration 3 months or longer.</p> <p>This EPA contains the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify at the start of a ward round if there are acutely unwell patients who require immediate attention</li> <li>• Ensure that all documentation (including results of investigations) will be available when required and interpret them appropriately</li> <li>• Make a full assessment of patients by taking a structured history and by performing a focused clinical examination</li> <li>• Request, interpret and discuss appropriate investigations to synthesise findings into an overall impression, management plan and diagnosis</li> <li>• Identify when the clinical course is progressing as expected and when medical or surgical complications are developing, and recognise when operative intervention or re-intervention is required and ensure this is carried out</li> <li>• Manage complications safely, requesting help from colleagues where required</li> <li>• Identify and initially manage co-morbidity and medical complications, referring on to other specialties as appropriate</li> <li>• Make good use of time, ensuring all necessary assessments are made and discussions held, while continuing to make progress with the overall workload of the ward round</li> <li>• Identify when further therapeutic manoeuvres are not in the patient's best interests, initiate palliative care, refer for specialist advice as required, and discuss plans with the patient and their family</li> <li>• Summarise important points at the end of the ward rounds and ensure all members of the multi-disciplinary team understand the management plans and their roles within them</li> <li>• Give appropriate advice for discharge documentation and follow-up</li> </ul> <p>Limitations: Patients in the High Dependency Unit and ICU are excluded</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 3a

## Surgery in General EPA 4 - Performing Calls

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Title	Performing Calls
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA is applicable to surgical postings of duration 3 months or longer.</p> <p>This EPA contains the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess acutely unwell and deteriorating patients promptly</li> <li>• Deliver resuscitative treatment and initial management, and ensure sepsis is recognised and treated in compliance with protocol</li> <li>• Make a full assessment of patients by taking a structured history and by performing a focused clinical examination</li> <li>• Request, interpret and discuss appropriate investigations to synthesise findings into an overall impression, management plan and diagnosis</li> <li>• Identify, account for, and manage co-morbidity in the context of the surgical presentation, referring for specialist advice when necessary</li> <li>• Select patients for conservative and operative treatment plans as appropriate, explaining these to the patient, and carrying them out</li> <li>• Consider urgency and potential for deterioration, in advocating for the timely execution of a procedure or therapy</li> <li>• Make appropriate peri- and post-operative management plans in conjunction with anaesthetic colleagues</li> <li>• Deliver ongoing post-operative surgical care in ward and critical care settings, recognising and appropriately managing medical and surgical complications, and referring for specialist care when necessary</li> <li>• Make appropriate discharge and follow up arrangements</li> <li>• Give and receive appropriate handover</li> </ul>
	<p>Limitations: Nil</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 3a

## Surgery in General EPA 5 - Providing Pre- and Post-operative Assessment and Care

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Title	Providing Pre- and Post-operative Assessment and Care
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA is applicable to surgical postings of duration 3 months or longer.</p> <p>This EPA contains the following elements:</p> <p><u>Pre-procedure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide pre-operative assessment, including identification patient's indications, contraindications and risks for the procedure / surgery</li> <li>• Develop an initial pre-operative management plan, including identification of potential challenges and technical complexities</li> <li>• Identify medical conditions which may impact surgical treatment</li> <li>• Develop initial management plan for medical conditions, refer to specialists and allied health colleagues where necessary and/or escalate to seniors to optimize patient for the procedure.</li> <li>• Review and follow up on recommendations by specialists, allied health and seniors</li> <li>• Identify patients who need inpatient post-operative care</li> <li>• Identify patients and/or procedures that need post-operative enhanced monitoring and/or care</li> </ul> <p><u>Post-procedure:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess, diagnose, and manage post-procedure general and/or medical problems e.g., pain, acute retention of urine etc.</li> <li>• Manage routine post-procedure / operative course for common operations</li> <li>• Recognise symptoms and signs of clinical concern, escalate and seek help appropriately</li> <li>• Assess and diagnose life and/or organ threatening acute post-operative complications</li> <li>• Initiate resuscitation of life and/or organ threatening acute post-operative complications</li> <li>• Document patient's status and response to treatment</li> </ul>
	<p><u>Limitations:</u></p> <p>Nil</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 3b