

## Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

### List of EPAs for General Surgery

EPA Title	EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit
<u>EPA 1: Managing Surgical Outpatient Clinics</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 2: Leading Ward Rounds</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 3: Managing Patients During Calls</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 3A: Performing Calls</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 3B: Performing Emergency Surgical Procedures</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 4: Running Elective Outpatient Endoscopy Sessions</u>	Level 4
<u>EPA 5: Performing Elective Surgical Procedures:</u>	<p>Level 4 for these procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ray or partial foot amputation for peripheral vascular disease</li><li>• Open inguinal hernia repair</li></ul> <p>Level 3 for these procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with or without intraoperative cholangiogram</li><li>• Open segmental colectomy</li><li>• Small bowel resection or gastrojejunostomy</li><li>• Hemithyroidectomy</li><li>• Simple mastectomy</li></ul>

### Entrustment Scale

Entrustment Level	Description
<b>Level 1</b>	Be present and observe, but no permission to enact EPA
<b>Level 2</b>	Practice EPA with direct (pro-active) supervision
<b>Level 3</b>	Practice EPA with indirect (re-active) supervision
<b>Level 4</b>	Unsupervised practice allowed (distant oversight)
<b>Level 5</b>	May provide supervision to junior learners

**General Surgery EPA 1**  
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Title	<b>EPA 1 : Managing Surgical Outpatient Clinics</b>
Specifications and limitations	<p>1. Surgical outpatient clinics refer to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Breast</li> <li>• Colorectal</li> <li>• Head and neck</li> <li>• Endocrine</li> <li>• Hepato-pancreatico-biliary</li> <li>• Trauma</li> <li>• Upper GI</li> <li>• Vascular</li> <li>• Surgical Oncology</li> <li>• Minimally invasive surgery</li> <li>• General surgery</li> </ul> <p>The above list is not exhaustive because institutions may name their clinics differently.</p> <p>2. 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>• Counsel patient, obtain informed consent for procedure</li> <li>• Escalate to a senior surgeon appropriately</li> <li>• Identify and plan the management of co-morbidity and medical complications, referring to other specialties as appropriate</li> <li>• Make appropriate referrals to allied health</li> <li>• Book operative cases with appropriate urgency, duration, and equipment and patient preparation</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations:</b> Paediatric patients and acutely unwell patients are excluded</p>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

**General Surgery EPA 2**  
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Title	<b>EPA 2 : Leading Ward Rounds</b>
Specifications and limitations	<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 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><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric patients and patients in the High Dependency Unit and ICU are excluded</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

**General Surgery EPA 3**  
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Title	<b>EPA 3 : Managing Patients During Calls</b>
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA comprises two nested EPAs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. EPA 3A: Performing Calls, and</li> <li>2. EPA 3B: Performing Emergency Surgical Procedures, which include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendicectomy</li> <li>• Cholecystectomy</li> <li>• Exploratory Laparotomy</li> <li>• Emergency endoscopy</li> <li>• Emergency surgery for incarcerated hernias</li> <li>• Start a Colectomy</li> </ul> </li> </ol> <p>Performing calls and emergency surgical procedures are integrated professional activities when the resident goes on call.</p> <p>Please see the nested EPAs for the specifications.</p> <p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric patients are excluded</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	See nested EPA 3A and 3B below.

**General Surgery EPA 3A**  
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Title	<b>EPA 3A : Performing Calls</b> This is a nested EPA in Managing Patients During Calls
Specifications and limitations	<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 and manage co-morbidity in the context of the surgical presentation, referring to other specialties as appropriate.</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 and other specialists.</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><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric patients are excluded</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

**General Surgery EPA 3B**  
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Title	<b>EPA 3B : Performing Emergency Surgical Procedures</b> This is a nested EPA in Managing Patients During Calls
Specifications and limitations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This EPA contains the following elements:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <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>• Carries out the operative procedures to the required level for the phase of training as described in the specialty syllabus.</li> <li>• Uses sound judgement to adapt operative strategy to take account of pathological findings and any changes in clinical condition.</li> <li>• Undertakes the operation in a technically safe manner, using time efficiently.</li> <li>• Give and receive appropriate handover.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Emergency surgical procedures include the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Appendicectomy</li> <li>• Cholecystectomy</li> <li>• Exploratory Laparotomy</li> <li>• Emergency endoscopy</li> <li>• Emergency surgery for incarcerated hernias</li> <li>• Start a Colectomy</li> </ul> </li> </ol>
	<b>Limitations:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric patients are excluded.</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

**General Surgery EPA 4**  
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Title	<b>EPA 4 : Running Elective Outpatient Endoscopy Sessions</b>
Specifications and limitations	<p>This EPA includes the following elements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide analgesia and sedation to ensure patient safety and comfort.</li> <li>• Perform upper and lower GI diagnostic and therapeutic endoscopies, including but not limited to biopsies, polypectomies, and other therapeutic interventions.</li> <li>• Recognise need to refer for advanced endoscopy (e.g., ERCP, EUS, EMR, ESG etc.) by other surgical/non-surgical colleagues.</li> <li>• Arrange for post-endoscopic care including management of co-morbidity.</li> <li>• Identify and respond to immediate complications of the procedure if applicable.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inpatient and emergency endoscopies are excluded.</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

**General Surgery EPA 5**  
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Title	Performing Elective Surgical Procedures
Specifications and limitations	<p>1. Elective surgical procedures refer to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ray or partial foot amputation for peripheral vascular disease</li> <li>• Open inguinal hernia repair</li> <li>• Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with or without intraoperative cholangiogram</li> <li>• Open segmental colectomy</li> <li>• Small bowel resection or gastrojejunostomy</li> <li>• Hemithyroidectomy</li> <li>• Simple mastectomy</li> </ul> <p>2. 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>• Carry out and/or assist 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>• Undertake and/or assist 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>• Arrange for post-operative care including initial management of medical co-morbidities, referring to relevant specialties as appropriate.</li> <li>• Review all patients post-operatively.</li> <li>• Write a full operation note for each patient, ensuring inclusion of all post-operative instructions.</li> </ul> <p><b>Limitations:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Paediatric patients are excluded</li> </ul>
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	<p>Level 4 for these procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ray or partial foot amputation for peripheral vascular disease</li> <li>• Open inguinal hernia repair</li> </ul> <p>Level 3 for these procedures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Laparoscopic cholecystectomy with or without intraoperative cholangiogram</li> <li>• Open segmental colectomy</li> <li>• Small bowel resection or gastrojejunostomy</li> <li>• Hemithyroidectomy</li> <li>• Simple mastectomy</li> </ul>