

Entrustable Professional Activities (EPAs)

List of EPAs for Gastroenterology

EPA Title	EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit
EPA 1: Managing common acid-peptic related disorders	Level 4
EPA 2: Managing common functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID)	Level 4
EPA 3: Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders	Level 4
EPA 4: Managing common liver diseases	Level 4
EPA 5: Managing common complications of cirrhosis	Level 4
EPA 6: Performing upper and lower endoscopic evaluation of the luminal gastrointestinal (GI) tract for screening, diagnosis and intervention	Level 4
EPA 7: Performing endoscopic procedures for the evaluation and management of gastrointestinal bleeding	Level 4
EPA 8: Managing common biliary disorders	Level 4
EPA 9: Managing common pancreatic diseases	Level 4
EPA 10: Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) infections in non-immunosuppressed and immunocompromised populations	Level 4
EPA 11: Identifying and managing patients with common non-infectious gastrointestinal (GI) luminal disease	Level 4
EPA 12: Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) and liver malignancies and associated extraintestinal cancers	Level 4
EPA 13: Assessing nutritional status and developing and implementing nutritional therapies in health and disease	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
Level 3	Practice EPA with indirect (re-active) supervision
Level 4	Unsupervised practice allowed (distant oversight)
Level 5	May provide supervision to junior learners

Gastroenterology EPA 1 – Managing common acid-peptic related disorders

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Title	Managing common acid-peptic related disorders
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a comprehensive history pertaining to acid peptic disorders. 2. Perform a physical examination that assesses for manifestations and particularly, complications of acid peptic disorders. 3. Order appropriate laboratory studies, radiologic studies and endoscopy in the evaluation of acid peptic disorders and their complications. 4. Counsel patients about the role of pharmacological and nonpharmacological approaches to treatment of acid related disease. 5. Perform diagnostic endoscopy for diagnosis of acid peptic disorders and their complications. 6. Integrate non-pharmacologic management, appropriate use of medications, endoscopic management and surgical management of acid peptic disorders and H pylori infection. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 2 – Managing common functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID)

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Title	Managing common functional gastrointestinal disorders (FGID)
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a comprehensive history pertaining to functional gastrointestinal disorders, with particular attention to the presence of alarm symptoms that warrants further investigation. 2. Perform directed physical examination that assesses for confounding organic diagnoses; perform a digital rectal examination as part of the assessment of every patient and particularly in patients with defecatory disorders. 3. Order appropriate laboratory studies, radiologic studies, diagnostic motility studies and endoscopy for exclusion of organic disorders when warranted. 4. Diagnose patients with functional GI diseases encountered in a typical gastroenterology practice including: irritable bowel syndrome, functional dyspepsia, functional vomiting, noncardiac chest pain, functional heartburn, cyclic vomiting syndrome, and chronic unexplained abdominal pain. 5. Integrate pharmacologic management, non-pharmacologic management, complementary and alternative medicine in effective management of functional gastrointestinal disorders. 6. Refer patients with psychiatric and affective disorders where appropriate.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 3 - Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders

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Title	Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) motility disorders
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a comprehensive history pertaining to motility disorders. 2. Perform a physical examination that assesses for manifestations and particularly, complications of motility disorders; perform a digital rectal examination as part of the assessment of patients with defecatory disorders. 3. Order appropriate laboratory studies, radiologic studies, diagnostic motility studies and endoscopy in the evaluation of motility disorders and their complications. 4. Apply results from these studies in the management of motility disorders. 5. Integrate non-pharmacologic management, appropriate use of medications, endoscopic and surgical management of common motility disorders. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 4 – Managing common liver diseases

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Title	Managing common liver diseases
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a relevant history and perform a focused physical examination in patients with acute and chronic liver disease and develop a comprehensive differential diagnosis. 2. Order appropriate labs and studies to assess patients with acute and chronic liver disease. 3. Counsel patients about lifestyle modifications relevant to liver disease (alcohol, drugs, diet). 4. Diagnose and manage patients with liver diseases encountered in a typical gastroenterology practice including: acute infectious hepatitis, acute liver injury and failure, chronic infectious hepatitis, alcoholic liver disease, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, drug-induced liver disease, Wilson's disease, primary biliary cholangitis, primary sclerosing cholangitis, autoimmune hepatitis, iron overload liver disease, vascular liver disease, cystic diseases of the liver. 5. Appropriately refer patients with complex liver disease to a gastroenterologist with subspecialty interest in hepatology. 6. Identify patients at risk of complications of liver disease including progression to advanced stages. 7. Appropriate recognition and timely referral of patients with liver failure to a liver transplant service/centre. 8. Assess preoperative risk in patients with liver disease.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 5 - Managing common complications of cirrhosis

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Title	Managing common complications of cirrhosis
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a relevant history and perform a focused physical examination in patients with decompensated liver disease. 2. Order appropriate labs and studies to assess patients with decompensated liver disease. 3. Counsel patients about lifestyle modifications and dietary restrictions/recommendations relevant to decompensated liver disease. 4. Diagnose and manage patients with cirrhosis, including complications of portal hypertension (ascites, spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, varices), hepatic encephalopathy and hepatorenal syndrome. 5. Apply the results of ascitic fluid analysis. 6. Screen patients for hepatocellular carcinoma and refer for management. 7. Recognize when to refer patients for liver transplant evaluation. 8. Assess preoperative risk in patients with cirrhosis.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 6 - Performing upper and lower endoscopic evaluation of the luminal gastrointestinal (GI) tract for screening, diagnosis, and intervention

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Title	Performing upper and lower endoscopic evaluation of the luminal gastrointestinal (GI) tract for screening, diagnosis, and intervention
Specifications and limitations	1. Determine which patients are appropriate to undergo an endoscopic procedure. 2. Perform a quality examination safely, and, integrate the clinical presentation with the endoscopic findings in order to plan further management. 3. Integrate endoscopic findings with clinical presentation to formulate a diagnosis and plan of care. 4. Communicate endoscopic and pathological findings to the patient, family, and the referring doctor in a timely fashion. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 7 - Performing endoscopic procedures for the evaluation and management of gastrointestinal bleeding

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Title	Performing endoscopic procedures for the evaluation and management of gastrointestinal bleeding
Specifications and limitations	1. Initial assessment, hemodynamic resuscitation, and stabilization. 2. Determine the indications, risks and benefits for endoscopic procedures that are diagnostic and potentially therapeutic. 3. Perform a quality endoscopic examination in a safe and efficient manner and should be able to perform effective endoscopic haemostasis. 4. Communicate endoscopic findings, pathological findings, and management plans to the patient, family, and the involved health care providers in a timely fashion. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 8 – Managing common biliary disorders

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Title	Managing common biliary disorders
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a detailed history of biliary disorders. 2. Perform a physical exam that identifies signs of biliary obstruction (cholestasis), inflammation and related systemic manifestations. 3. Order and interpret appropriate labs and imaging studies to assess the biliary tree and potential obstructive pathology (transabdominal US, CT, MRI/MRCP and scintigraphy). 4. Identify endoscopic techniques used in the diagnosis and treatment of biliary tract diseases, including their potential risks, limitations, and costs; and the role of alternative diagnostic and therapeutic modalities. 5. Manage acute cholangitis with antibiotics and understand timing of interventional procedures.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 9 - Managing common pancreatic diseases

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Title	Managing common pancreatic diseases
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a thorough history of pancreatic disorders and presentation of common pancreatic disorders such as acute and chronic pancreatitis. 2. Perform a physical exam that would identify signs of severe pancreatitis, pancreatic insufficiency and related systemic manifestations. 3. Identify and manage systemic manifestation of inflammatory and neoplastic conditions of the pancreas (acute and chronic pancreatitis, pancreatic cancer). 4. Order appropriate labs and imaging studies to assess various pancreatic pathology (Transabdominal US, CT, MRI/MRCP). 5. Manage acute pancreatitis with proper use of fluids, antibiotics, and supportive hospital care. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
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Gastroenterology EPA 10 - Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) infections in non-immunosuppressed and immunocompromised populations

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Title	Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) infections in non-immunosuppressed and immunocompromised populations
Specifications and limitations	1. Differentiate between infectious vs. non-infectious diarrhoea. 2. Order laboratory, stool and pathologic studies necessary to diagnose infections of the luminal GI Tract in a cost-effective manner. 3. Interpret results of mucosal biopsies. 4. Select appropriate antimicrobial therapy and determine rational treatment plan for enteric infections. 5. Formulate preventative strategies related to upcoming travel. 6. Apply therapies for GI infections which may differ based upon region of the country or travel history.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 11 - Identifying and managing patients with common non-infectious gastrointestinal (GI) luminal disease

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Title	Identifying and managing patients with common non-infectious gastrointestinal (GI) luminal disease
Specifications and limitations	1. Perform a careful history and physical examination. 2. Order appropriate diagnostic tests in a logical and cost-conscious sequence to diagnosis inflammatory GI conditions or to assess disease activity of known inflammatory conditions. 3. Manage immunosuppressive medications including biologic agent and monitor and adjust medication dosages based on laboratory testing and patient response to therapy. 4. Communicate the risk, benefits and alternatives of treatment options to patients and members of the health care team. 5. Recognize cases that will require consultation and referral to GI physicians with subspecialty interests and skills in managing IBD patients. 6. Formulate an assessment plan that leads to the successful diagnosis of IBD, microscopic colitis, celiac disease, etc. and, once the diagnosis is made, begin an evidence-based treatment approach, including monitoring of therapy.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 12 - Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) and liver malignancies and associated extraintestinal cancers

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Title	Managing common gastrointestinal (GI) and liver malignancies and associated extraintestinal cancers
Specifications and limitations	1. Perform a careful history and physical examination identifying features related to GI and liver malignancies. 2. Order appropriate tests in a cost-conscious sequence for the diagnosis, screening, surveillance, and staging of GI/liver malignancies. 3. Perform basic endoscopy to diagnose and treat GI neoplasia including colonoscopic polypectomy of pedunculated and sessile polyps and ablative therapies for sessile lesions. 4. Formulate a management plan for early gastrointestinal cancers. 5. Determine the best management of luminal distention including radiological, surgical, and endoscopic interventions. 6. Counsel patients who have gastrointestinal and/or liver neoplasia and how to manage patients who inquire about the management of positive family histories of gastrointestinal or liver cancer. Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
EPA Entrustment Level to be Attained by Exit	Level 4

Gastroenterology EPA 13 - Assessing nutritional status and developing and implementing nutritional therapies in health and disease

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Title	Assessing nutritional status and developing and implementing nutritional therapies in health and disease
Specifications and limitations	1. Obtain a diet history and use validated nutrition assessment tools. 2. Perform a physical exam that assesses nutritional status of the patient. 3. Order appropriate labs and studies to assess nutritional status. 4. Counsel patients about how to make lifestyle and dietary changes to impact nutritional status. 5. Provide nutritional guidance for many medical conditions. 6. Identify and treat nutritional deficiencies, overfeeding and obesity. 7. Implement and manage nutritional therapy, including modified diets, enteral tube feeding, and create parenteral nutrition orders. 8. Evaluate the clinical efficacy of and complications of nutrition support. 9. Perform endoscopic placement of feeding tubes.
	Limitations: Exclusion of paediatric patients
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