

VA General Surgery Rotation Entrustable Professional Activities (EPA) Guide by PGY-Level

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Purpose: To create standardized expectations for residents and faculty of the EPAs that are appropriate for each PGY-level resident rotating through the VA by the end of the rotation.

Background: General surgery residents graduating in 2028 and onward will be required by the American Board of Surgery to provide residency logs of their EPA performance across 18 core clinical competencies. Residents and Faculty can both initiate an EPA evaluation through the ABS SIMPL app for a given patient encounter.

For each EPA evaluation, residents complete a two-question self-assessment. Faculty complete a two-question assessment of the resident's performance by selecting the most accurate level of performance and given level of difficulty:

- 1) Limited Participation
- 2) Direct Supervision
- 3) Indirect Supervision
- 4) Practice Ready

Residents and faculty can also include an optional brief note or free-text reflection about the encounter. EPAs are intended to evaluate a resident's preoperative management, intraoperative management, and postoperative management of the following 18 core clinical competencies:

[Surgical Consultation](#)

[Flexible GI Endoscopy](#)

[Gallbladder Disease](#)

[Right Lower Quadrant Pain and Appendicitis](#)

[Colon Disease](#)

[Small Bowel Obstruction](#)

[Soft Tissue Infection](#)

[Cutaneous/Subcutaneous Neoplasm](#)

[Breast Disease](#)

[Blunt/Penetrating Trauma](#)

[Critical Care](#)

[Dialysis Access](#)

[Abdominal Wall Hernia](#)

[Inguinal Hernia](#)

[Acute Abdomen](#)

[Severe Acute/Necrotizing Pancreatitis](#)

[Thyroid/Parathyroid Disease](#)

[Benign Anorectal Disease](#)

PGY-I

Core EPAs	Number of Evaluations (Minimum 10-12) <i>(includes preop, intraop, postop management)</i>
1. Surgical consultation to other health care providers	3
2. Benign anorectal disease	3
3. Inguinal hernia	3
4. Small bowel obstruction	3

PGY-II

Core EPAs	Number of Evaluations (Minimum 10-12) <i>(includes preop, intraop, postop management)</i>
1. Surgical consultation to other health care providers	3
2. Cutaneous and subcutaneous neoplasms	3
3. Small bowel obstruction	3
4. Soft tissue infection	3
<i>PGY-II VA Vascular Only</i>	
Patient needing renal replacement therapy	10 <i>(spanning intraop, preop workup, clinic patients, postop complications and consults)</i>

PGY-IV

Core EPAs	Number of Evaluations (Minimum 10-12) <i>(includes preop, intraop, postop management)</i>
1. Acute abdomen	3
2. Benign or malignant colon disease	3
3. Perioperative care of the critically ill surgery patient (includes sepsis and hemorrhage)	3
4. Gallbladder disease	3
5. Abdominal wall hernia	3