



## GENERAL SURGERY

### Definition

General Surgery is a broad discipline encompassing many areas of non-operative and operative surgical care but deals mainly with the alimentary tract, trauma and critical care, endocrine and breast diseases cancer surgery and endoscopy.

The breadth of General Surgery training and practice is reflected on the General Surgery Curriculum, which is covering the following areas of practice: Abdominal wall, Retroperitoneum, Breast, Colorectal, Emergency, Endocrine, Endoscopy, Sepsis and Critically ill or Compromised Patient, Skin and Soft Tissue, Small Bowel, Surgical Oncology, Transplantation, Trauma, Upper GI-Bariatric, Upper GI-Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary and Upper GI-Esophago-Gastric.

General Surgeon generally treats adults and at times children (particularly aged 14 and above) with multidisciplinary teams in accordance with facility capability/designation and policy. General Surgeons play an important role in the delivery of surgery for children, particularly regional settings and in emergency situations.

### Scope of practice

A General Surgeon is expected to consider recency of practice, experience and local hospital capability/designation and to make a professional judgement in regard to these issues and the appropriateness of performing particular procedures at particular institutions.

Subject to the above comments, the following list provides an indication of the areas of practice and the range of skills and procedures considered to be scope of practice for General Surgeons. This indicative list includes but is not limited to:

#### Head and Neck

- Management of benign neck lesions to include biopsy and excision.
- Management of benign salivary gland disease in the neck, mouth or cheek
- Surgical airway management
- Surgical management of thyroid disease
- Lymph node biopsy

#### Breast and Lymphatics

- Surgical management of benign breast disease
- Surgical management of breast cancer
- Sentinel node biopsy
- Axillary lymph node dissection

#### Chest

- Tube thoracostomy

#### Abdomen and retroperitoneum

- Upper GI tract
  - o Surgical management of benign gastro-duodenal disease.
  - o Hepatic, Pancreatic and Biliary
  - o Surgical management of benign biliary disease
  - o Common bile duct exploration
  - o Surgical management of distal pancreatic disease
  - o Liver biopsy
  - o Non-segmental liver resection

- Lower GI (small and large bowel)
  - o Surgical management of benign and malignant disease
- Rectum
  - o Surgical management of benign rectal disease
- Anus
  - o Surgical management of benign anal disease
- Solid organ excluding liver.
  - o Surgical management of splenic disease
- Abdominal wall
  - o Surgical management of groin hernia
  - o Surgical management of ventral hernia
  - o Complex abdominal wall reconstruction

#### **Extremities and soft tissue**

- Surgical management of benign soft tissue conditions
- Surgical management of skin and soft tissue infection

#### **Vascular**

- Varicose vein ligation and management of venous stasis disease
- By virtue of training, special interest or circumstance the practice of General Surgery may be narrowly focused through the system bases structured training.
- General Surgeons with relevant additional post-Fellowship training, or experience and recency of practice may seek scope of clinical practice for specified complex procedures (subject to facility capability and policy).

#### **Clinical core privileges**

##### **Skin & subcutaneous Surgery**

1. Excision of Sebaceous cyst
2. Excision of Lipoma
3. Excision of Ingrown nail
4. Excision of skin nodule / wart
5. Incision and drainage of abscess
6. Aspiration of skin swelling (FNA)
7. Excision of Pilonidal Sinus
8. Ray`s mid- metatarsal Amputation of toe
9. Debridement of Diabetic Foot
10. Cut wound Suturing
11. Foreign body removal

##### **Neck Surgery**

1. Excision of Lymph node
2. Thyroid FNA

##### **Gastroesophageal Surgery**

1. Laparoscopic closure of Perforated duodenal Ulcer
2. Feeding Jejunostomy

##### **Spleen & Lymph Nodes**

1. Laparoscopic Peritoneal biopsy

##### **Hepatobiliary**

1. Laparoscopic Cholecystectomy

### **Small Bowel**

1. Open & Laparoscopic Appendectomy
2. Laparoscopic Mickle`s Diverticulectomy
3. Small Bowel Resection & Anastomosis
4. Laparotomy and Exploration
5. Laparoscopic Exploration

### **Colorectal Surgery**

1. Haemorrhoidectomy
2. Fistulectomy / Fistulotomy
3. Fissurectomy / Sphincterotomy

### **Breast**

1. FNA / Core Biopsy
2. Lumpectomy for benign conditions

### **Hernia**

1. Open repair of inguinal Hernia
2. Open repair of femoral Hernia
3. Open repair of Epigastric Hernia
4. Open repair of Paraumbilical Hernia

### **Vascular**

1. Stripping of Varicose Veins and perforators ligation

General Surgeons with relevant additional post-Fellowship training, or experience and recency of practice may apply for advance privilege for specified complex procedures (subject to facility capability and policy).

## **References**

**DHP expert committee**