



2026 Core Module

All References



Below you will find the topics and references for the Core module for the 2026 General Surgery Continuous Certification Assessment. Diplomates are **not** expected or required to read all of these references before or during the assessment. Key References are marked with a yellow star ★.

Due to permission limitations, we can only provide direct full-text links for articles that are already open access; all other links will direct to PubMed.

To view full-text articles for **all** references before starting your assessment, please log in to the [surgeon portal](#), where links and PDFs will be freely available beginning **August 8, 2026**. Additionally, full-text links and PDFs for all Key and Additional References will be available directly within the exam platform while you take your assessment.

Choice of Anesthesia

- ★ [Meier J, Stevens A, Berger M, et al. Comparison of postoperative outcomes of laparoscopic vs open inguinal hernia repair. *JAMA Surg.* 2023;158\(2\):172-180. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2022.6616](#)

Duty to Report Patients to Public Authorities

- ★ [Geiderman JM, Marco CA. Mandatory and permissive reporting laws: obligations, challenges, moral dilemmas, and opportunities. *J Am Coll Emerg Physicians Open.* 2020;1\(1\):38-45. doi:10.1002/emp2.12011](#)

Ethical Issues in Clinical Surgery: Competition of Interests

- ★ [Botkin JR. What should physician-researchers tell patient-subjects about their relationships with industry?. *AMA J Ethics.* 2021;23\(9\):E685-E691. doi:10.1001/amajethics.2021.685](#)

Fluids, Electrolytes, and Acid-Base Balance

- ★ [Adrogué HJ, Madias NE. The syndrome of inappropriate antidiuresis. *N Engl J Med.* 2023;389\(16\):1499-1509. doi:10.1056/NEJMcp2210411](#)
- [Farley P, Smith SG, Sperry JL, Schreiber MA. Shock, Electrolytes, and Fluid. In: Tyler DS, ed. *Sabiston Textbook of Surgery.* 22 ed. 2025.](#)



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Goal Setting With Elderly Patients and Families

- ★ [Baggett ND, Schulz K, Buffington A, et al. Surgeon use of shared decision-making for older adults considering major surgery: a secondary analysis of a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Surg.* 2022;157\(5\):406-413. doi:10.1001/jamasurg.2022.0290](#)

Health Equity/Disparities Groups/Bias

- ★ [Dawes AJ, Rajasekar G, Arnow KD, et al. Disparities in access, quality, and clinical outcome for Latino Californians with colon cancer. *Ann Surg.* Published online February 26, 2024. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000006251](#)
- ★ [Hernandez N, Zagales R, Awan MU, et al. Factors contributing to disparities in trauma care between urban vs rural trauma centers: towards improving trauma care access and quality of care delivery. *Injury.* 2024;55\(12\):112017. doi:10.1016/j.injury.2024.112017](#)
- ★ [Hooda Z, Olivera JA, Rodriguez E, et al. Impact of surgeon race, ethnicity, and gender on perceptions of professional behavior in the operating room. *Am J Surg.* 2025;248:116298. doi:10.1016/j.amjsurg.2025.116298](#)
- ★ [Ranganathan P, Dare A, Harrison EM, et al. Inequities in global cancer surgery: challenges and solutions. *J Surg Oncol.* 2024;129\(1\):150-158. doi:10.1002/jso.27551](#)
- [Gill AA, Zahm SH, Shriver CD, Stojadinovic A, McGlynn KA, Zhu K. Colon cancer lymph node evaluation among military health system beneficiaries: an analysis by race/ethnicity. *Ann Surg Oncol.* 2015;22\(1\):195-202. doi:10.1245/s10434-014-3939-4](#)
- [Murthy SS, Are C. Cancer surgery on the global stage: updates and progress. *J Surg Oncol.* 2024;129\(1\):145-149. doi:10.1002/jso.27548](#)

Immune Response to Injury and Infection

- ★ [Ross JT, Robles AJ, Barnes A, et al. Elevated cell-free hemoglobin: a novel early biomarker following traumatic injury. *J Trauma Acute Care Surg.* 2025;98\(3\):378-384. doi:10.1097/TA.0000000000004543](#)

Medical Errors and Apology

- ★ [Shannon SE, Espin S, Dunlap BS, et al. A closer look at the role of apology in error disclosure: a simulation study. *Front Health Serv.* 2025;5:1569550. doi:10.3389/frhs.2025.1569550](#)



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Nutritional Pharmacology and Immunonutrition

- ★ [Heutlinger O, Acharya N, Tedesco A, et al. Nutritional optimization of the surgical patient: a narrative review. *Adv Nutr*. 2025;16\(1\):100351. doi:10.1016/j.advnut.2024.100351](#)
- [Ricci C, Serbassi F, Alberici L, et al. Immunonutrition in patients who underwent major abdominal surgery: a comprehensive systematic review and component network metanalysis using GRADE and CINeMA approaches. *Surgery*. 2023;174\(6\):1401-1409. doi:10.1016/j.surg.2023.08.005](#)
- [Weimann A, Bezmarevic M, Braga M, et al. ESPEN guideline on clinical nutrition in surgery - update 2025. *Clin Nutr*. 2025;53:222-261. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2025.08.029](#)
- [Weimann A, Braga M, Carli F, et al. ESPEN practical guideline: clinical nutrition in surgery. *Clin Nutr*. 2021;40\(7\):4745-4761. doi:10.1016/j.clnu.2021.03.031](#)

Preoperative Assessment and Management of Cardiac Risk

- ★ [Thompson A, Fleischmann KE, Smilowitz NR, et al. 2024 AHA/ACC/ACS/ASNC/HRS/SCA/SCCT/SCMR/SVM guideline for perioperative cardiovascular management for noncardiac surgery: a report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on clinical practice guidelines. *Circulation*. 2024;150\(19\):e351-e442. doi:10.1161/CIR.0000000000001285](#)

Preoperative Evaluation of Geriatric Patients

- ★ [Koh FH, Loh CH, Tan WJ, et al. Structured presurgery prehabilitation for aged patients undergoing elective surgery significantly improves surgical outcomes and reduces cost: a nonrandomized sequential comparative prospective cohort study. *Nutr Clin Pract*. 2022;37\(3\):645-653. doi:10.1002/ncp.10787](#)
- [Partridge JSL, Ryan J, Dhesei JK; CPOC-BGS perioperative frailty guideline group. New guidelines for the perioperative care of people living with frailty undergoing elective and emergency surgery-a commentary. *Age Ageing*. 2022;51\(11\):afac237. doi:10.1093/ageing/afac237](#)

Principles and Techniques of Abdominal Access

- ★ [La Riva A, Perez-Soto RH, Bauzon J, et al. A decade-long nationwide analysis of surgical management of adhesive small bowel obstruction: open vs. laparoscopic approach. *Surg Endosc*. Published online December 11, 2025. doi:10.1007/s00464-025-12460-3](#)



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Problem-Based Quality Improvement

- ★ [Dhar P, Johnston H, Amornsiripanitch N, et al. Leveraging a quality and safety continuous process improvement framework to increase breast cancer screening access. *J Am Coll Radiol*. Published online October 28, 2025. doi:10.1016/j.jacr.2025.10.024](#)

Respecting Cultural Diversity and Individual Sensitivities

- ★ [Tsihrintzis KV, Kouri MA, Koukourakis IM, Oikonomou P, Mavrogenis AF. Tell or hide the truth from patients? The role of bioethics in medicine. *SICOT J*. 2025;11:E2. doi:10.1051/sicotj/2025053](#)

Transfusion and Disorders of Coagulation

- ★ [Moore EE, Moore HB, Kornblith LZ, et al. Trauma-induced coagulopathy. *Nat Rev Dis Primers*. 2021;7\(1\):30. Published 2021 Apr 29. doi:10.1038/s41572-021-00264-3](#)

Unclear Competence and Decision-Making Capacity

- ★ [Barstow C, Shahan B, Roberts M. Evaluating medical decision-making capacity in practice. *Am Fam Physician*. 2018;98\(1\):40-46.](#)
- [Harcarik L, Kim SYH, Millum J. The ability to value: an additional criterion for decision-making capacity. *Bioethics*. 2025;39\(3\):288-295. doi:10.1111/bioe.13387](#)

Understanding the Data and Methods to Evaluate Performance

- ★ [Laughlin JL, Johnson LR, Ghanekar B, O'Malley MK. Technical skills assessment in robotic surgery: a review of recent methods. *Methodist DeBakey Cardiovasc J*. 2025;21\(5\):49-59. doi:10.14797/mdcvj.1667](#)