



## Provide Surgical Consultation to Other Health Care Providers

<b>Description of the Activity</b>	All general surgeons must be able to serve as consultants in inpatient, outpatient, emergency, and operative settings. As consultants, surgeons play a unique role in interacting with clinicians in other disciplines to provide optimal care for patients.
<b>Functions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Elicit the major question or reason for the consult.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Recognize the consultation's urgency level, and triage accordingly (eg, setting, timing).</li><li>➤ Synthesize essential information from the patient's referring health care providers, records, history, physical examination, and initial diagnostic evaluations to develop a differential diagnosis.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Avoid "anchoring" on the explicit reason for the consult.</li></ul></li></ul></li><li>❖ Identify patients with primary surgical conditions.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Collaborate with the consulting health care provider or service regarding the possible need for patient transfer (setting or service).</li></ul></li><li>❖ Determine the need for additional diagnostic testing in collaboration with the consulting health care provider or service.</li><li>❖ Determine the need for operative intervention.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Determine the timing of surgical intervention in coordination with other required care.</li><li>➤ If the case is nonoperative, make recommendations regarding management and required follow-up.</li><li>➤ Identify patients who require subspecialty referral.</li></ul></li><li>❖ Discuss findings, recommendations, and rationale with the consulting health care provider or service in a timely fashion.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Consider providing pertinent literature references.</li></ul></li><li>❖ In collaboration with the primary health care provider or service, counsel the patient regarding the plan.</li><li>❖ Document the consultation in the medical record.<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Ensure that documentation is consistent with the level of service for billing purposes.</li></ul></li><li>❖ Determine when consultative services are no longer needed.</li></ul>
<b>Scope</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ In scope<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Any condition regularly managed by general surgeons</li></ul></li><li>❖ Out of scope<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Any condition not regularly managed by general surgeons</li></ul></li></ul>



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<p>1</p> <p><b>Limited Participation</b></p> <p>Demonstrates understanding of information but may not be able to apply it</p> <p><b>Framework:</b></p> <p>What a learner directly out of medical school should know</p> <p>The attending can show and tell.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Respectfully receives a consultation, not necessarily recognizing its urgency</li><li>➤ Obtains an H&amp;P with cultural humility and develops a differential with some omissions or extraneous information</li><li>➤ Recognizes an acute, potentially life-threatening surgical problem</li><li>➤ Demonstrates understanding of core surgical conditions</li><li>➤ Seeks additional information when a consult question outstrips knowledge base</li><li>➤ Asks for help in a timely manner</li></ul></li><li>❖ Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Identifies potential barriers to personal completion of a consult and describes strategies to mitigate them</li><li>➤ Applies evidence for a routine condition</li><li>➤ Incorporates a patient's preferences and values into patient care</li></ul></li><li>❖ Communication and Documentation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Respectfully communicates basic facts about the condition to a patient/caregiver(s) in a timely way but inconsistently uses applicable language services and audio/visual aids</li><li>➤ Uses language that values all members of the health care team</li><li>➤ Accurately records information in the patient record, including use of documentation templates when indicated</li></ul></li></ul>
<p>2</p> <p><b>Direct Supervision</b></p> <p>Needs directing but demonstrates understanding of the content; needs coaching throughout management beyond basic cases</p> <p><b>Framework:</b></p> <p>The learner can use knowledge and tools but needs help as the complexity increases.</p> <p>The attending gives active help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Responds to a consult in a timely manner, altering the pace of consultation for urgent problems</li><li>➤ Evaluates a patient and recommends diagnostic tests as indicated for further evaluation</li><li>➤ Demonstrates knowledge of pathophysiology and treatments for a patient with a complex surgical condition</li></ul></li><li>❖ Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Recommends management for a patient with a straightforward condition, including placement of orders or coordination of the OR if necessary</li><li>➤ Seeks help when limits in the knowledge/skills of the team require it</li><li>➤ Incorporates patient preferences and values to guide evidence-based care</li></ul></li><li>❖ Communication and Documentation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Actively listens to a patient/caregiver(s) to elicit patient questions and expectations</li><li>➤ Respectfully communicates basic facts about the diagnosis to a patient/caregiver(s), customizing communication to overcome barriers and cultural differences and using applicable language services and audio/visual aids</li><li>➤ Clearly and concisely articulates the plan and next steps to the primary team, the ED team, and other team members</li><li>➤ Documents the encounter efficiently in the EMR</li></ul></li></ul>



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<p><b>3</b></p> <p><b><u>Indirect Supervision</u></b></p> <p>Can manage a straightforward case but will not always recognize or understand the nuances of an advanced case</p> <p><b><u>Framework:</u></b> The learner can apply knowledge to increasingly complex cases.</p> <p>The attending gives passive help.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Responds to a consult in a timely manner with attention to detail in a complex situation</li><li>➤ Demonstrates professional behavior in a complex or stressful situation</li><li>➤ Exhibits confidence in skills with self-awareness of limits in knowledge/skills</li><li>➤ Demonstrates knowledge of the impact of patient factors on pathophysiology and the treatment of patients with surgical conditions</li><li>➤ Recognizes patient-specific emotional reactions (eg, fear or other psychological distress, mental illness) that impair medical decision-making</li><li>➤ Recognizes differences in culture and values that affect medical decisions</li></ul></li><li>❖ Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Manages a healthy patient with a straightforward condition (eg, appendicitis, cholecystitis)</li><li>➤ Makes recommendations for managing a patient with an evolving clinical condition (eg, drainage of diverticular abscess)</li><li>➤ Applies evidence, integrated with patient preference, to the care of a patient with a complex condition (eg, colon cancer, pancreas cancer)</li><li>➤ Incorporates shared decision-making and current evidence to make a personalized care plan consistent with patient goals of care</li></ul></li><li>❖ Communication and Documentation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Delivers complex and difficult information respectfully and clearly to a patient/caregiver(s) across language and cultural differences</li><li>➤ Verifies understanding of recommendations when communicating with other services</li><li>➤ Adapts communication style to fit team needs</li><li>➤ Communicates concerns and feedback (positive and negative) to peers and learners</li><li>➤ Integrates and synthesizes all relevant data from outside systems and prior encounters into documentation and the plan of care</li></ul></li></ul>
<p><b>4</b></p> <p><b><u>Practice Ready</u></b></p> <p>Can manage more complex consults</p> <p><b><u>Framework:</u></b> The learner can consult on all straightforward cases and has a strong understanding of surgical options for complex or less common scenarios.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>❖ Evaluation<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Recognizes a situation that may impact others' ability to complete tasks and responsibilities in a timely manner and provides assistance</li><li>➤ Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge of the varying patterns of disease presentation and alternative and adjuvant treatments</li><li>➤ Takes active steps to mitigate patient-specific emotional reactions (eg, fear or other psychological distress, mental illness) that impair medical decision-making</li><li>➤ Comfortably accepts differences in culture and values that affect medical decisions</li></ul></li><li>❖ Management<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Makes recommendations for managing a patient with a complex surgical condition (eg, intra-abdominal sepsis) or associated comorbidities</li><li>➤ Critically appraises the literature, considering nuanced clinical situations in its application</li></ul></li><li>❖ Communication and Documentation</li></ul>



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The attending is available at the request of the learner but is not routinely needed for common presentations, though input may be needed for more complex presentations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>➤ Facilitates a discussion productively, respectfully, and accurately across language and cultural differences in a caregiver conference</li><li>➤ Negotiates and manages conflict between a patient, their caregiver(s), and the health care team</li><li>➤ Coordinates recommendations from different members of the health care team and a patient/caregiver(s) to develop a comprehensive care plan that aligns with the patient's cultural values</li><li>➤ Maintains effective communication with a patient/caregiver(s), other services, and team members in a crisis situation</li><li>➤ Communicates constructive feedback to superiors</li></ul>