

Defined Category Minimum Numbers for General Surgery Residents and Credit Role Review Committee for Surgery

Defined category minimums, and discreet cases within each category, are in effect for residents graduating in 2018. Beginning with the January 2020 ACGME annual program review, the Review Committee will use these defined minimums to assess graduate Case Logs.

Category	Minimum
Skin, Soft Tissue	25
Breast	40
Mastectomy	5
Axilla	5
Head and Neck	25
Alimentary Tract	180
Esophagus	5
Stomach	15
Small Intestine	25
Large Intestine	40
Appendix	40
Anorectal	20
Abdominal	250
Biliary	85
Hernia	85
Liver	5
Pancreas	5
Vascular	50
Access	10
Anastomosis, Repair, or Endarterectomy	10
Endocrine	15
Thyroid or Parathyroid	10
Operative Trauma	10
Non-operative Trauma	40
Resuscitations as Team Leader	10
Thoracic Surgery	20
Thoracotomy	5
Pediatric Surgery	20
Plastic Surgery	10
Surgical Critical Care	40
Laparoscopic Basic	100
Endoscopy	85
Upper Endoscopy	35
Colonoscopy	50
Laparoscopic Complex	75
Total Major Cases	850
Chief Year Major Cases	200
Teaching Assistant Cases	25

Minimum Case Requirements by PGY-3

Residents must have at least 250 operations by the beginning of their PG-3 year, effective with applicants who began residency in July 2014.

- The 250 cases can include procedures performed as Operating Surgeon or First Assistant.
- Of the 250, at least 200 must be in the defined categories, endoscopies, or e-codes (see below for information on e-codes).
- Up to 50 non-defined cases can be applied to this requirement.

These requirements are in effect for residents graduating in 2020, and will be assessed beginning with the 2021 ACGME annual program review.

E-Codes: General surgery residents can use e-codes to receive ACGME Case Log credit for vascular surgical procedures. E-codes allow more than one resident to take credit for an arterial exposure and repair. The resident who accomplishes the exposure should add an "E" to the case ID for the system to allow credit for a second procedure on the same patient. The relevant CPT codes to use are: 35201 (Repair blood vessel, direct; neck); 35206 (upper extremity); 35216 (intra-thoracic without bypass); 35221 (intra-abdominal), and 35226 (lower extremity). Four categories are available under Trauma for residents to enter arterial exposures.

Credit Roles for General Surgery Residents

Residents must function in the role of Surgeon for a minimum of 850 operative procedures over the five years of residency. Of these 850, at least 200 must be accomplished as a Chief Resident.

A resident is considered the Surgeon only when he or she can document a significant role in the following aspects of management:

- determination or confirmation of the diagnosis
- provision of pre-operative care
- selection and accomplishment of the appropriate operative procedure
- direction of the post-operative care

For multi-procedure operations, residents must record all procedures performed and indicate which procedure will count as the primary procedure. When more than one resident is involved in the same patient/same day/same operation/procedure, a senior resident may take credit as Surgeon, while another resident may take credit as First Assistant; or, a senior resident may take credit as Teaching Assistant while a more junior resident takes credit as Surgeon Junior. If two residents perform different procedures on the same patient (different CPT codes), then each may take credit as Surgeon.

Abbreviations for use in the Case Log System

SC = Surgeon Chief: Used for cases credited as "Surgeon" during the 12 months of Chief experience

SJ = Surgeon Junior: Used for cases credited as "Surgeon prior" to Chief experience

TA = Teaching Assistant: Used when a Chief Resident is working with a junior resident who takes credit as "Surgeon Junior"

- The minimum required number of TA cases may be reported during the PG-4 and 5 years. All TA cases will count toward the total major cases, and will count in the defined categories, but will not count towards the 200 minimum cases needed to fulfill the operative requirements for the Chief year.

FA = First Assistant: Used when a resident assists another surgeon with an operative procedure and when he or she is not the primary Surgeon; FA cases are not credited toward the total number of major cases