

ZAMBIA COLLEGE OF MEDICINE & SURGERY

Advancing Specialist Care & Professional Growth

Specialty Training Programme Curriculum & learning guide for GENERAL SURGERY

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

This Curriculum and Learning Guide describes the work and competence-based professional training programme for the Specialty Training Programme (STP) in General Surgery (GS) in Zambia. The intended readership for the curriculum and guideline include the following:

- + Trainees, host departments and managers of GS healthcare services;
- + STP GS trainers, which includes all those involved in supervising, coordinating, assessing and delivering specialist education and training in General Surgery;
- Academic, administrative and professional staff within Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the Higher Education Authority (HEA), and the Zambia Qualifications Authority (ZAQA);
- + Strategic partners involved in supporting GS care and the training of healthcare practitioners in its various related fields.

Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS) advances professional training of medical specialists using the professional competence-based certification model beyond traditional university-based specialist training. It promotes specialist training as a vital pursuit for a successful professional medical career. The ZACOMS also promotes the increase of universal health coverage (UHC) by promoting equitable access to cost-effective quality specialist care as close to the family as possible for people in Zambia at all levels of socioeconomic status and geographical location. The ZACOMS certifies and admits members and/or fellows as specialists in a medical and/or surgical speciality in any of the various specializations of medicine and surgery.

The Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS) oversees the training of General Surgery specialists working through the Surgical Society of Zambia (SSZ). The programme is independent but is aligned to the curriculum and requirements of the College of Surgeons of East Central and Southern Africa (COSECSA).

General Surgery encompasses the diagnosis, assessment and surgical management of disorders of the human systems. The STP GS training provides specialist training in General Surgery. This is a relevant programme because of the critical shortage of Surgeons, including general surgeons. The STP GS will equip trainees with core competencies reflecting the wide array of surgical subspecialties. This will mean for every trainee who completes this programme, the population they serve will have gained access to various surgical competencies. Furthermore, the graduate of this programme will offer support to the various surgical subspecialties, improving outcomes in the management of a broad spectrum of surgical pathology.

<u>Vision</u>

Our vision is to be innovative in providing a teaching and support structure that will empower every trainee to excel in General Surgery knowledge, skills and research through internal and external collaboration.

Mission Statement

The mission of the STP GS training in Zambia is to train specialists who shall endeavour to improve the General Surgery health care services to all by providing safe, evidence based, humanistic specialist care in the field of General Surgery in an efficient and proficient manner to meet the needs of the Zambian community, and contribute to the field of General Surgery in the region and globally.

Values:

- Professional excellence
- Integrity
- Sensitivity to reproductive health needs
- Interdisciplinary, inter institutional collaboration
- Continuous professional development
- Innovation
- Academic Excellence
- Self and peer review

RATIONALE FOR THE SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY

The STP GS aims to train specialists in General Surgery in order to prepare them for specialist service in the healthcare system. The STP GS aims to bridge the critical shortage of General Surgeons by advancing professional training of General Surgeons using the competence-based certification model beyond traditional university-based specialist training. Simply put, this model works on the principle that every health facility equipped well enough to support a General Surgery practice has the basic requirements to train a General Surgeon. The STP GS curriculum is therefore informed by the training requirements of the Health Professions Council of Zambia (HPCZ), the professional creed of the Surgical Society of Zambia (SSZ) and is alive to the unique opportunities obtaining across the various training sites. The training programme encourages self-directed, lifelong learning, and student-centred training approaches while providing robust and structured guidance.

This curriculum provides a framework for the four-year postgraduate specialty training and educational curriculum in General Surgery. Trainees who successfully complete the requirements and meet the minimum standards set out in this curriculum should be expected to demonstrate competence in General Surgery at specialist level.

The key outcomes are twofold as stipulated in Outcomes 1 and 2 below:

Outcome 1. <u>Apply, at mastery level, Biomedical Sciences, Behavioural & Sociology,</u> <u>and Scientific Principles to the Practice of General Surgery</u>

- 1. The graduate should be able to apply to General Surgery practice biomedical scientific principles, method and knowledge relating to anatomy, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, nutrition, pathology, pharmacology and physiology. The graduate should be able to:
 - a) Explain normal human structure and function relevant to General Surgery.
 - b) Explain the scientific basis for common diseases and conditions' signs, symptoms and treatment relevant to General Surgery.
 - c) Justify and explain the scientific basis of common investigations for diseases and conditions relevant to General Surgery.
 - d) Demonstrate knowledge of drugs, drug actions, side effects, and interactions relevant to General Surgery.
- 2. Apply Behavioural and Sociology Principles to the Practice of General Surgery
 - a) Explain normal human behaviour relevant to General Surgery.
 - b) Discuss psychological and social concepts of health, illness and disease relevant to General Surgery.
 - c) Apply theoretical frameworks of psychology and sociology to explain the varied responses of individuals, groups and societies to General Surgery.
 - d) Explain psychological and social factors that contribute to illness, the course of the disease and the success of General Surgery interventions.
- 3. Apply Population Health to the Practice of General Surgery
 - a) Discuss population health principles related to determinants of health, health inequalities, health risks and surveillance relevant to General Surgery.
 - b) Discuss the principles underlying the development of health and health service policy, including issues related to health financing, and clinical guidelines relevant to General Surgery.
 - c) Evaluate and apply basic principles of infectious and non-communicable disease control at community and hospital level relevant to General Surgery.
 - d) Discuss and apply the principles of primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention of disease relevant to General Surgery.
- 4. Apply Scientific Method and Approaches to General Surgery Research.
 - a) Evaluate research outcomes of qualitative and quantitative studies in the medical and scientific literature relevant to General Surgery.
 - b) Formulate research questions, study designs or experiments to address the research questions relevant to General Surgery.
 - c) Discuss and apply appropriate research ethics to a research study relevant to General Surgery.

Outcome 2. Competence, at mastery level, in General Surgery Clinical Practice.

On successful completion of the work-based General Surgery STP:

1. The trainees should have clinical and specialist expertise in General Surgery, underpinned by broader knowledge, skills, experience and professional attributes necessary for independent practice;

- 2. The trainees should be able to undertake complex clinical roles, defining and choosing investigative and clinical options, and making key judgements about complex facts and clinical situations.
- 3. The trainees should contribute to the improvement of General Surgery services in the context of the national health priorities, by means of outstanding scientific research and application of safe, high quality, cost effective, evidence based practice within the Zambian health system.
- 4. The trainees should possess the essential knowledge, skills, experience and attributes required for their role and should demonstrate:
 - + A systematic understanding of clinical and scientific knowledge, and a critical awareness of current problems, future developments, research and innovation in General Surgery practice, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of their professional practice in a healthcare environment;
 - Clinical and scientific practice that applies knowledge, skills and experience in a healthcare setting, places the patient and the public at the centre of care prioritizing patient safety and dignity and reflecting outstanding professional values and standards;
 - + Clinical, scientific and professional practice that meets the professional standards defined by the Health Professions Council of Zambia (HPCZ);
 - Personal qualities that encompass self-management, self-awareness, acting with integrity and the ability to take responsibility for self-directed learning, reflection and action planning;
 - The ability to analyze and solve problems, define and choose investigative and scientific and/or clinical options, and make key judgments about complex facts in a range of situations;
 - The ability to deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and to communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences including patients and the public;
 - The ability to be independent self-directed learners demonstrating originality in tackling and solving problems and acting autonomously in planning and implementing tasks at a professional level;
 - A comprehensive understanding of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities for further development of General Surgery as applicable to their own clinical practice, research, innovation and service development which either directly or indirectly leads to improvements in clinical outcomes and scientific practice;
 - + Conceptual understanding and advanced scholarship in their specialism that enables the graduate to critically evaluate current research and innovation methodologies and develop critiques of them and, where appropriate, propose new research questions and hypotheses;
 - Scientific and clinical leadership based on the continual advancement of their knowledge, skills and understanding through the independent learning required for continuing professional development.
- 5. Once registered as a specialist in General Surgery, a range of career development options will be available including sub-specialist training. Alternatively, others may opt to undertake further career development in post, as specialist, through

structured Continuing Professional Development (CPD), provided by Accredited CPD providers. Specialist surgeons who have successfully completed the STP GS will be eligible to compete for available Consultant positions in General Surgery.

The outcomes of the STP GS training are affiliated to the following curriculum outcome categories:

Category I: Scientific foundations

- **Goal 1:** Understand the normal structure and function of the human body, at levels from molecules to cells to organs, to the whole organism.
- Goal 2: Understand the major pathological processes and their biological alterations.
- **Goal 3:** Understand how the major pathologic processes affect the organ systems.
- **Goal 4:** Integrate basic science and epidemiological knowledge with clinical reasoning.
- **Goal 5:** Understand the principles of scientific method and evidence-based medicine including critical thinking.

Category II: Clinical Skills

Goal 6: Obtain a sensitive, thorough medical history.

Goal 7: Perform a sensitive and accurate physical exam including mental state examination.

Goal 8: Establish and maintain appropriate therapeutic relationships with patients.

Category III: Communication and Interpersonal Skills

Goal 9: Develop the knowledge, skills, and attitudes needed for culturally-competent care.

Goal 10: Participate in discussion and decision-making with patients and families.

Goal 11: Work effectively with other providers in the health system.

Goal 12: Clearly communicate medical information in spoken and written form.

Category IV: Prevention

Goal 13: Develop knowledge, skills, and attitudes to practice the basic principles of prevention.

Goal 14: Practice personalized health planning for long-range goals.

Goal 15: Understand the planning for communities and populations.

Category V: Diagnosis

Goal 16: Elicit and correctly interpret symptoms and signs of General Surgery conditions.

Goal 17: Diagnose and demonstrate basic understanding of common disease and conditions.

Goal 18: Appropriately use testing to help guide diagnostic and therapeutic decisions.

Goal 19: Demonstrate sound clinical reasoning.

Category VI: Treatment, Acute and Chronic.

Goal 20: Understand therapeutic options and participate in the multidisciplinary care of patients with complex problems.

Goal 21: Recognize acute life-threatening medical problems and initiate appropriate care

Goal 22: Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to assist in the management and rehabilitation of chronic diseases.

Goal 23: Participate in care in a variety of settings; including knowledge about palliative care.

Category VII: Patient Safety

Goal 24: Identify and remove common sources of medical errors.

Goal 25: Understand and apply models of Quality Improvement.

Goal 26: Appreciate the challenges associated with reporting and disclosure.

Category VIII: Information Management

Goal 27: Use information and educational technology to facilitate research, education, and patient care.

Category IX: Ethics, Humanities, and the Law

Goal 28: Develop a commitment to carrying out professional responsibilities, adherence to ethical principles, and sensitivity to diversity.

Goal 29: Develop a critical understanding of the multiple factors that affect the practice of medicine, public health and research.

Goal 30: Incorporate ethical principles in clinical practice and research.

Category X: Professionalism

Goal 31: Develop healthy self-care behaviours and coping skills. **Goal 32:** Model service to patients and community.

Category XI: Leadership & Management

Goal 33: Develop interpersonal and communication skills that result in leadership in patient health service delivery and health human resource management.

ADMISSION CRITERIA TO THE SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY

Applicants to the STP GS must possess a primary qualification in medicine, that is, Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MB ChB) or equivalent, from a recognized university. Additionally, they must have completed internship and retain full registration and a practising licence issued by the Health Professions Council of Zambia. Other Ministry of Health policies and directives, for example, completion of rural posting, may apply.

CURRICULUM DESIGN/MODEL OF THE SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY

The STP GS Curriculum is a work and competence-based professional training situated in an accredited training facility managed by specialists in General Surgery with oversight by the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS) working through SSZ. This curriculum is based on a process model of curriculum and is designed to be flexible and open ended rather than predetermined; maximizing the potential for growth and development.

During the STP GS programme the specialty registrar is an integral member of the clinical work of the department in which they are training to gain the required clinical experience and competence. The STP GS programme is a work based professional competence-based training leading to the award of the Certificate of Completion of Specialty Training (CCST) by the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS). Graduates are then eligible to apply to the Health Professions Council of Zambia to enter the Specialist Register in General Surgery.

TEACHING METHODS IN THE SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY

The STP GS training is a work-based professional competence-based programme and should encompass diverse teaching and learning approaches that are appropriate for the target educational domain, i.e., cognitive (knowledge), psychomotor (practical), or affective (attitude) domain. The teaching methods may include, but not limited to, the following: expository lectures, tutorials, seminars, practical classes, skills laboratories, clinical demonstrations, clinical clerkships (bedside teaching, ward rounds, ambulatory care teaching, operating theatre experience, post-mortem, and on-call duties), field and community based learning, and ICT supported learning experiences.

The Health Professions Specialty Training Guidelines for Zambia and Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery Society Objectives and By-Laws provide detailed guidance to the trainee about the STP and ZACOMS, respectively.

SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY CURRICULUM STRUCTURE AND MAP

Curriculum Map for the STP GS Programme

SGY 1020	MS PT 1 RCP	STP YEAR 2 SGY 2020	ARCP	STP YEAR 3 SGY 3020	ARCP	SGY 4020	ACOMS ST Exams
Basic Sciences to Underpin Surgery Practice (3 months)	ZACC A	Basic Surgical Training (3 months)		Adult Abdominal Surgery (3 months)		Research methods (3 months)	ZA CCS

Basic Surgical Training (3 months)		General Surgery Rotation (3 months)		Thoracic Surgery (3 months)	Health s manage (3 mont	
Basic Surgical Skills Course (3 months)		Orthopaedics & Trauma Rotation (3 months)		Paediatric Surgery (3 months)	Leaders manage (3 mont	
Basic Surgical Science Skills Course (3 months)		Critical Care and Trauma Course (3 months)		Plastic Surgery (3 months)	Global (3 mont	
Part 1: Gene Education & Tra (1 Year)	Specia	alist	emed & Education & 3 Years)	·		

N.B. The total number of years, in particular, the themed specialist education and training may vary between different specialties.

- 1. ARCP = Annual Review of Competence Progression
- 2. CCST = Certificate of Completion of Specialty Training Examination;
- 3. STP = Specialty Training Programme;
- ZACOMS PT 1 = Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery Part 1 Examinations in Basic Sciences, Behavioural Sciences, Health Population Studies, and Professionalism & Ethics; ZACOMS CCST Examinations = Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training in General Surgery Examinations
- 5. Global Rotation = Attachment to a surgical unit away from the primary training site to gain experience of comprehensive general surgery care.

ASSESSMENT IN THE SPECIALTY TRAINING PROGRAMME IN GENERAL SURGERY

Progression to the next level of training is NOT automatic and is dependent on the trainee satisfying all the competency requirements of each defined level as per this curriculum and learning guide. Progression is based on passing both clinical and written examinations. The assessment framework is designed to provide a coherent system of assessing both formative and summative assessment which are workplace based and in examination settings.

Each training site must ensure that they use valid, reliable and appropriate methods for assessing the knowledge, clinical skills and attitude domains. The continuous assessments and final annual assessments are weighted at 40% and 60% of the final mark of Annual Review of Competence Progression, respectively. Assessment methods may include, but are not limited to, the following: Log of experiences and procedures completed, case reports, portfolios, project reports, multiple choice questions, essay questions, short answer questions, modified essay questions, short and long cases, objective structured clinical

examinations (OSCE), practical examinations, objective structured practical examinations (OSPE), Mini-clinical Examination (MiniCEX), and Viva Voce, etc.

It is emphasized that marks from theory examinations **may not** compensate for poor scores in the clinical examinations; Students **MUST** pass the clinical examinations in order to progress to the next stage of training or completion.

Assessment	Knowledge, Skill and Attitude Domain	Examining Body
Formative Workplace Based Assessments (every 4 to 6 months)	Outcome 1 & 2	Training Site
Annual Review of Competence Progression (annually, at the end of each academic year)	Outcome 1 & 2	Training Site in conjunction with ZACOMS
ZACOMS Part 1 Examination (end of year 1)	Outcome 1	ZACOMS
ZACOMS Certificate of Completion of Specialist Registration Examinations (end of year 4)	Outcome 2	ZACOMS

A candidate shall be allowed a maximum of three attempts for ZACOMS Part 1 and/or Part 2 Examinations. Candidates must have submitted a completed log book to eligible to attempt the ZACOMS Part 2 Examination.

For ease of tracking progress and planning for General Surgery care, all STP GS trainees will be registered with ZACOMS and SSZ for the duration of their training.

Grading Scheme

The STP GS Curriculum and Guide are the basis for all specialty training which contextualize the standards of proficiency set down by the Zambia College of Medicine and Surgery (ZACOMS) in consultation with the Society of General Surgery of Zambia (SSZ) in a way that is accessible to the profession and the public. The Certificate of Completion of Specialist Training (CCST) is not graded. Separate assessments and examinations may be graded to show the level of achievement of the trainee in a particular course or assignment.

Assessment of Attainment of Competence in an Academic Subject

Status & Level	Description of Competence Features	% Range
Outright Fail [D]	 Has poor and inaccurate command of the subject vocabulary Has poor and inaccurate command of the concepts (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of the subject across a broad range of topics. 	44.9% & Below
Bare Fail [D+]	 Has the basics of subject vocabulary Has the basics of concepts (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of the subject across a broad range of topics Unable to transfer and apply knowledge, skills and 	45 – 49.9

	attitudes of the subject in a range of situations.Unable to exercise independent judgement in a range of situations	
Clear Pass [C]	 Has sound command of subject vocabulary Has sound command of concepts (knowledge, skills and attitudes) of the subject across a broad range of topics Able to formulate responses and demonstrate skill and exhibit appropriate attitude in well-defined and abstract problems/professional settings across a broad range of topics of the subject 	50 – 64.9
Meritorious	All of above in level 3 and:	65 – 74.9
Pass [B]	 Able to transfer and apply knowledge, skills and attitudes and exercise significant independent judgement in a broad range of topics of the subject 	
Distinction	All of the above in level 4 and:	75% & Above
Pass [A]	 Displays masterly of complex and specialised areas of knowledge, skills and attitudes in a broad range of topics of the subject. 	

GENERAL SURGERY HANDBOOK & CURRICULUM

The detailed STP General Surgery Handbook and Curriculum is presented in full in the next section.

GENERAL SURGERY HANDBOOK & CURRICULUM

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Part 1 Examinations

The Part 1 Examination will be held at the end of the first year of training.

The Part I Examination is designed to assess the basic principles of surgery and a broad knowledge of surgery in general. It is designed to identify surgical trainees who can recognise and deal with the wide variety of problems that may be met by trainees. They should be able to take responsibility for emergency surgical admissions, deal independently with life threatening situations due to trauma or critical illness, and be able to diagnose and plan treatment of a wide variety of surgical complaints.

The Part I of ZACOMS STP GS does not confer specialist status but signifies that the trainee is ready to pursue higher surgical training in general surgery or another surgical subspecialty. Higher surgical training in the chosen specialty is examined ZACOMS through the relevant affiliate professional association, which will confer specialist status.

<u>Logbook</u>

During the training period candidates must keep a logbook recording all of their training experience. The logbook should also contain details of all courses attended and the trainee and post assessment forms for the whole training period. This will serve as an accurate record of the trainees' competencies acquired during the training programme. It will therefore serve as an objective means of assessing a trainee's suitability to complete their training. This is an important aspect of the training because it is what helps track and confirm the competencies acquired by the trainee during the programme.

More detail on completing logbooks is provided in the logbook itself.

Before submission to the examination the Programme Directors should check the logbook for completion. Before the start of the clinical and oral examinations, the logbook should be handed to the examination panel. Proof of attendance at an approved Basic Surgical Skills course, Basic Surgical Science course and Critical Care or Trauma Course should be brought to the oral examination. Candidates will not be allowed to sit for the examination if this is not done.

<u>Syllabus</u>

SURGERY IN GENERAL SYLLABUS INTRODUCTION

The Part 1 Examination is designed to pass out those surgeons in training who have a broad knowledge of surgical problems in general and who are capable of recognizing and dealing safely and efficiently with the wide range of surgical conditions which may be handled by the trainee surgeon. Candidates should demonstrate the basic surgical skills which are essential in confidently handling emergency surgical admissions, and dealing independently with life-threatening situations from traumatic and other critical diseases.

The trainee surgeon should be able accurately to diagnose and plan management of a wide variety of surgical diseases even in situations where investigative and therapeutic facilities are limited.

Trainees will be expected to have a good understanding of the anatomy, physiology and pathology relevant to clinical examination of the various branches of surgery, and to the understanding of functional disorders in those areas Trainees are expected to have sufficient knowledge in those aspects of regional and radiological anatomy that are relevant to clinical and operative surgery. They are expected to have knowledge in some detail of both histological and intracellular anatomy. A detailed knowledge of embryology will not be needed but trainees are expected to know the general principles and should have a more detailed knowledge of those aspects of embryology and genetics which are valuable in the understanding of the pathogenesis of the common correctable congenital anomalies.

The trainees will be expected to have a sound knowledge of human physiology and those deviations that occur in surgery, anaesthesia, shock, haemorrhage, dehydration and other abnormal states in surgical practice.

Candidates will also be expected to have some knowledge of pharmacology in relation to surgical practice and of the action of more important substances in use such as anaesthesia, antibiotics, analgesics, steroids and those acting on the autonomic, vascular and pulmonary systems. Some basic knowledge is expected about the effects of radiation on the body and the use of radioactive isotopes.

In biochemistry, a detailed knowledge of chemical analysis reactions and synthesis is not expected but knowledge of biochemistry which enables understanding of the effects of common surgical diseases and injuries upon the normal structure and function of the various systems of the body will be expected.

Trainees will be expected to have a very sound knowledge of the pathology of diseases specific to Africa in general and East and Central and Southern Africa in particular. The trainees will be required to understand the basic principles underlying disease processes. They must have an understanding of the general pathology including principles of

immunology. Candidates are expected to show that they are able to apply the general principles to the problems met in surgical practice. Trainees should make themselves familiar in particular with the causation, character, and sequence of inflammation, trauma degeneration, regeneration, repair, hypertrophy, atrophy, hyperplasia, thrombosis, embolism, infarction, ischaemia, blood transfusion, and immunology, particularly due to the Human Immunodeficiency Virus.

Trainees are expected to be familiar with the general characteristics and behaviour of bacteria and viruses with more detailed knowledge of those that are relevant to surgical practice. They are expected to have an understanding of toxins, allergy and the methods of action the antimicrobial agents and the manner in which the sensitivity to those agents is assayed.

No syllabus can be comprehensive enough to contain all the topics expected to be covered but the list below is just a guide to the topics which may be covered during the course and subsequent examinations for the Membership. A basic, but not detailed, understanding of the following topics will be expected:

PRINCIPLES OF SURGERY IN GENERAL

1. SURGICAL TECHNIQUES AND TECHNOLOGY

- The operation theatre and its team
- Skin preparation & sterilization
- Prevention of sharps injuries
- Local and regional anaesthesia
- · Incision and incision repair
- Suture and ligature materials, staplers
- Dressings
- Coagulation disorders and homeostasis
- Pathophysiology of wound healing
- Classification of surgical wounds
- Principles of wound management
- Scars and contracture
- Hypertrophic scars and keloid
- Wound dehiscence
- Excision of cysts and tumours of skin and subcutaneous tissues
- Principles of biopsy and cytological sampling
- Drainage of superficial abscesses
- Basic principles of anastomosis
- Use of drains

2. SURGICAL SEPSIS AND ITS PREVENTION

- Surgically important micro-organisms
- Anaerobic infections
- Pathophysiology of the body's response to infection
- Septic shock
- Sources, prevention and control of surgical infections
- Principles of asepsis and antisepsis; disinfection

- Aseptic techniques
- Antibiotic use in surgery
- · Cellulitis, Necrotizing fasciitis, Pyomyositis, Gas Gangrene, Osteomyelitis
- Abscesses, Pus in body cavities/organs
- Surgical aspects of tuberculosis
- Transmission of HIV and hepatitis
- Signs of HIV disease
- Antiretroviral therapy prophylactic and therapeutic
- Condylomata

3. TRAUMA AND CRITICAL SURGICAL ILLNESS; GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF MANAGEMENT

- Principles of pre-hospital care; triage
- · Clinical assessment of critically ill and severely injured patients
- Scoring systems
- Haemorrhage and shock; acute renal failure; cardiac arrest.
- Resuscitation and haemodynamic support
- Monitoring of vital function in critically ill or severely injured patients
- Respiratory failure: pulmonary oedema, ARDS, pulmonary collapse, pulmonary embolism, fat embolism
- Penetrating injuries
- Gun shot and blast injuries
- Animal injuries
- Burns; emergency treatment & follow-up care
- Polytrauma
- Skin loss; principles of treatment by grafts and flaps
- Pathophysiology of fracture healing
- Principles of management and complications of fractures & tendon injuries
- Traumatic oedema and compartment syndromes
- Maxillofacial trauma
- · Management of closed and open head injury
- Spinal injury
- Closed and penetrating chest and neck injuries
- Pneumothorax, haemothorax, cardiac tamponade
- Blunt and penetrating abdominal trauma
- Peritonitis & Common acute abdominal emergencies
- Traumatic haematuria
- Bladder and urethral injuries
- Arterial injuries

4. PREOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

- Assessment of operative risks selection of patients
- · Assessment of fitness for anaesthesia and surgery, and need for ICU care
- Techniques of venous access
- Techniques of nerve blocks
- Ultrasonography and surgical diagnostic methods

- Preoperative investigations
- Preparation for operation management of associated medical conditions *inc.* diabetes mellitus, respiratory & cardiovascular disease, malnutrition, HIV disease, anaemia, jaundice, bleeding disorder, steroid, anticoagulant, antipsychotic therapy
- Correction of fluid and electrolyte deficiencies
- Antibiotic prophylaxis
- Premedication and sedation
- Prophylaxis of thromboembolic disease

5. INTRAOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

- Principles of anaesthesia
- · Care and monitoring of the anaesthetized patient
- · Prevention of nerve and other injuries in the anaesthetized patient
- Tourniquets uses and precautions
- Methods for haemostasis, diathermy
- Blood transfusion indications, hazards, complications; use of plasma substitutes

6. POSTOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

- Pain control
- Basic nursing care and instructions
- Respiratory complications prevention, recognition and treatment
- Assessment and maintenance of fluid and electrolyte balance
- Postoperative monitoring
- Nutritional support, mobilization, rehabilitation
- Postoperative complications prevention, recognition and management
- · Abdominal compartment syndrome, burst abdomen, incisional hernia

7. PRINCIPLES OF SURGICAL ONCOLOGY

- Principles of molecular biology of cancer; carcinogenesis
- Genetic aspects of oncology
- Screening tests
- Mechanism of invasion and metastasis
- Epidemiology of common cancers; the role of a cancer registry
- Clinico-pathological staging of cancer and premalignant states
- Principles of cancer therapy (surgery, radio/chemo/immuno/hormone therapy)
- Prevention of cancer
- Terminal care of cancer patients pain and symptom relief

8. HAEMOPOIETIC AND LYMPHORETICULAR SYTEMS

- · Lymphadenopathy: causes, diagnosis and management
- Lymphoma: presentation, staging, typing and treatment
- Leukopenia and thrombocytopenia in relation to surgery
- · Kaposi sarcoma: presentation and treatment
- Pathophysiology of the spleen, hypersplenism
- Indication for splenectomy, splenic preservation
- Chronic primary and secondary lymphoedema; filariasis
- Surgical effects of sickle cell disease

Leishmaniasis

9. THE EVALUATION OF SURGERY AND GENERAL TOPICS

- Decision making
- Clinical audit and Quality Assurance Statistics and computing in surgery
- Principles and research methodology
- · Health service management and economic aspects of surgical care
- Medico-legal ethics and medico-legal aspects as relating to surgery
- · Psychological effects of surgery and bereavement
- · Communications with patients, relatives and colleagues
- Rehabilitation of surgical patients

10. PAEDIATRIC SURGERY

- Special problems of anaesthesia and surgery in the neonate
- Principles of surgery for correctable life-threatening congenital anomalies: hydrocephalus, oesophageal atresia, intestinal obstruction, exomphalos, gastroschisis, ectopia vesicae, imperforate anus, meningomyelocele
- Principles of surgery for common paediatric disorders: cleft lip and palate, pyloric stenosis, intussusception, hernia; maldescended testis, abnormal genitalia, torsion, Hirschsprung's disease, nephroblastoma, neuroblastoma, Burkitt's lymphoma

11. BREAST SURGERY

- Benign breast disease *inc.* lumps, nipple discharge, mastalgia, hyperplasia, gynaecomastia
- Malignant breast disease inc. carcinoma, lymphoma, sarcoma, Paget's disease

12. ENDOCRINE SURGERY

- Management of Thyroid disease
- Disorders of calcium metabolism
- Precocious puberty
- Differentiation of intersex states
- Cushing's syndrome
- Hyperaldosteronism (Conn's syndrome)
- Surgical causes of secondary hypertension

13. HEAD AND NECK SURGERY

- Diagnosis and management of swellings in the neck
- Acute and chronic inflammatory disorders of the ear, nose, sinuses and throat
- Tonsillectomy
- Foreign bodies in the eye, ear, nose and throat
- Fundoscopy, auroscopy, laryngoscopy
- Epistaxis: causes and management
- Nasal and laryngeal polyps
- Common eye conditions: uveitis, conjunctivitis, corneal ulcer, glaucoma, exophthalmos, ectropion, onchocerciasis
- Salivary gland enlargement

- Ludwig's angina, Cavernous sinus thrombosis, Cancrum oris
- Basic principles of head and neck tumour management
- Indications for tracheostomy

14. THORACIC SURGERY

- Bronchoscopy, esophagoscopy: biopsy techniques, oesophageal dilation, injection of varices
- Use of Sengstaken tube
- Thoracentesis, chest drainage
- Mediastinitis
- · Foreign bodies in the oesophagus and bronchus
- Corrosive oesophagitis, rupture of the oesophagus, oesophageal strictures
- Oesophageal varices
- Achalasia, Pharyngeal pouch
- Rupture of the diaphragm, hiatus hernia
- Principles of management of bronchial, oesophageal and lung tumours
- Pericardial effusion, pleural effusion
- Principles of closed mitral valvotomy

15. VASCULAR SURGERY

- Peripheral limb ischaemia
- Indications for cervical sympathectomy
- Aneurysms & HIV-vasculopathy
- Principles of reconstructive surgery and amputation
- Varicose veins
- Deep venous thrombosis: causes, diagnosis, treatment and complications
- Chronic leg ulceration and gangrene
- Arterio-venous malformations & shunts

16. GASTRO-INTESTINAL SURGERY

- Abdominal wall hernias & dehiscence
- Esophagogastroduodenoscopy, proctoscopy, sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy: biopsy techniques, polypectomy, haemostatic injection
- Peptic ulceration, gastritis
- Gastric outlet obstruction
- Upper and lower gastrointestinal haemorrhage overt and occult
- Typhoid, amoebiasis, enterocolitis, schistosomiasis
- Ulcerative colitis, Crohn's disease
- Intestinal fistulae
- Stomas: gastrostomy, jejunostomy, ileostomy, colostomy
- Investigation of abdominal masses
- Intestinal obstruction, adhesions
- Gastro-intesinal malignancy
- Appendicitis, appendix mass
- Ascaris infestation
- Malignant diseases of the gastrointestinal tract

- Tuberculosis of the gastrointestinal tract
- Sigmoid Volvulus, Intussusception in adults
- Diverticular disease of the colon
- · Constipation, irritable bowel syndrome, megacolon, pica
- Anorectal strictures
- Common anal and perianal disorders

17. PANCREATIC & HEPATO-BILIARY SURGERY

- Portal hypertension
- Hydatid disease
- Hepatoma, & other liver tumours
- Liver biopsy
- Jaundice differential diagnosis and management
- Cholecystitis, cholangitis, empyema of the gallbladder, carcinoma of the gallbladder
- Pancreatitis, pancreatic pseudocyst, pancreatic carcinoma

18. GENITO-URINARY SURGERY

- Congenital abnormalities,
- Hydronephrosis, hydroureter
- Renal, ureteric and bladder calculi
- Renal tumours
- Cysto-urethroscopy
- Schistosomiasis, bladder tumours
- Retention of urine, urinary incontinence
- · Urinary diversion, ileal conduit
- Urethral & suprapubic catheterization
- Urethral stricture
- Benign prostatic hypertrophy, carcinoma of the prostate.
- Scrotal swellings, epididymitis, testicular torsion, testicular tumors
- Fournier's gangrene
- Vasectomy: pre- and post-operative advice
- Phimosis, paraphimosis
- Balanitis, priapism, Peyronie's disease, penile carcinoma Genito-urinary tuberculosis
- Gynaecology for the general surgeon: gynaecological causes of acute abdominal pain, ectopic pregnancy, pelvic inflammatory diseases, endometriosis, ovarian tumors, principles of Caesarean section & symphysiotomy

19. NEUROSURGERY

- Intervertebral disc problems spinal compression
- Spinal tuberculosis
- Tumors of the central nervous system
- Neurofibromatosis
- Sciatica
- Paraplegia and quadriplegia principles of management
- Prevention & management of pressure sores

- Principles of craniotomy
- Peripheral nerve lesions and nerve repair
- Nerve entrapment syndromes

20. ORTHOPAEDIC SURGERY

- Contractures inc. burns, polio, Dupuytren's
- Club foot
- Congenital dislocation of the hip, Perthe's disease
- Kyphoscoliosis
- Metabolic, endocrine and degenerative disorders of bones
- · Fractures and principles of fracture management
- · Principles of internal fixation of fractures, osteotomy, bone grafting
- Principles of tendon repair
- Ganglions
- Rheumatic disorders
- Gout and degenerative arthritis, joint disorders
- Bone dysplasia
- Neuromuscular disorders
- Principles of arthrotomy, tendon repair, amputation
- Arthroscopy
- Hand deformities congenital and acquired
- Surgical complications of leprosy
- Common disorders of the foot, ainhum
- Mycetoma, phycomycoses
- Malignant disease of bone and soft tissue

List of Recommended Procedures

80% of the following procedures are recommended to have been done as first assistant or independently by a trainee, having been previously supervised in these same procedures:

- Excision of skin lesion
- Incision & drainage of abscess
- Removal of superficial & deep foreign body
- Debridement/desloughing wound
- Suturing complex laceration Fasciotomy/escharotomy Insertion central venous line
- External cardiac massage & defibrillation
- Insertion of intercostal drain
- Arterial sampling
- Lumbar puncture
- Intercostal & brachial nerve blocks
- Tarsorrhaphy
- Skin grafting
- Excision of breast lump

- Trucut needle biopsy of solid tumour
- Fine needle aspiration
- Simple mastectomy
- Subcutaneous mastectomy for gynaecomastia
- Rib resection
- Dental extraction Tracheostomy Endotracheal intubation
- Long saphenous ligation & stripping of varicose vein
- Lymph node biopsy Orchidopexy & orchidectomy Vasectomy
- Urethral catheterization
- Suprapubic cystotomy
- Circumcision
- Lower segment Caesarean section
- Tendon repair
- Carpal tunnel release Insertion of Steinmann pin Manipulation of fractures Application of POP Application of external fixator Below-knee amputation Aboveknee amputation
- Proctoscopy & Sigmoidoscopy
- Rectal biopsy
- Insertion of seton for perianal fistula
- Lateral anal sphincterotomy Injection of haemorrhoids Inguinal herniotomy in a child Inguinal herniorrhaphy Epigastric herniorrhaphy Umbilical herniorrhaphy Laparotomy
- Appendicectomy
- Closure perforated duodenal ulcer
- Salpingectomy
- Upper GI endoscopy

Part 2 Examinations

The Part 2 Examination will be conducted at the end of year 4 of the training and is the exit examination in the GS STP.

The Part 2 examination in General Surgery leads to the specialist qualification in general surgery of the ZACOMS. This qualification is in recognition that the candidate has reached the level of knowledge, understanding and practice of surgery sufficient to practice independently at a consultant or specialist level. It should be recognised, however, that surgery is not a static art and fellows should continue to increase knowledge and skills by means of research, conferences, meetings and reading.

<u>Logbook</u>

During the training period candidates must keep a logbook recording all of their training experience. The logbook should also contain details of all courses attended and the trainee and post assessment forms for the whole training period. This will serve as an accurate record of the trainees' competencies acquired during the training programme. It will therefore serve as an objective means of assessing a trainee's suitability to complete their training. This is an important aspect of the training because it is what helps track and confirm the competencies acquired by the trainee during the programme.

More detail on completing logbooks is provided in the logbook itself.

Before submission for examination, the Programme Director should check the logbook for completion. Before the start of the clinical and oral examinations, the logbook should be handed to the examination panel. Proof of attendance at an approved Basic Surgical Skills course, Basic Surgical Science course and Critical Care or Trauma Course should be brought to the oral examination. Candidates will not be allowed to sit for the examination if this is not done.

<u>Syllabus</u>

The Part 2 STP examination in General Surgery is an examination aimed at assessing competence in General Surgery at specialist level. The syllabus below is an outline of what the candidate will be expected to know. It is not exhaustive, but provides a guideline to the topics candidates should understand and operative procedures with which they should be familiar. It should be noted that section 7.15 includes topics that are not always included in the term "general surgery". This section is included because in this region of Africa many surgeons practice in areas where they might be the only surgeon available or might be covering at night for colleagues in other surgical disciplines. The level of competence expected in the topics of section 7.15 will not be at a specialist level, but the candidate should have a sufficient understanding and skills necessary to provide adequate emergency care.

Topics and practical procedures in italics are not practised widely in this region so the candidates will not be expected to know about them in detail, or to have practical experience

7.1 Non Trauma Emergency Surgery Assessment of the acute abdomen Biliary tract emergencies Acute pancreatitisClosure of perforated peptic ulcer, operation and laparoscopic Endoscopy for upper GI bleeding Operations for GI bleeding including partial gastrectomy Emergency cholecystectomy Emergency hernia repair Laparotomy for small bowel obstructio Small bowel resection	
Biliary tract emergenciesEndoscopy for upper GI bleedingAcute pancreatitisOperations for GI bleeding includingSwallowed foreign bodiespartial gastrectomyGastrointestinal bleedingEmergency cholecystectomyAppendicitis and right iliac fossa painEmergency hernia repairAbdominal pain in childrenLaparotomy for small bowel obstructio	in -
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Abdominal pain in children Laparotomy for small bowel obstructio	
Peritonitis Small bowel resection	n
Acute intestinal obstruction Ileostomy	
Intestinal pseudo-obstruction Laparotomy for large bowel obstruction	n
Strangulated hernia Laparotomy for perforated colon	
Intestinal ischaemia Hartmann's operation	
Toxic megacolon Colostomy	
Acute ano-rectal sepsis Appendicectomy	
Ruptured aortic aneurysm Drainage of ano-rectal sepsis	
Acutely ischaemic limb Acute presentations of urological disease	
Acute presentations of urological disease Acute presentations of gynaecological	
Embolectomy	
Fasciotomy	
Organ retrieval for transplantation	
7.2 Trauma SurgeryInjuries of the urinary tractAssessment of the multiple injuredInitial management of head injuries an	Ч
patient including children Closed interpretation of CT scans	u
abdominal injuries, especially splenic, Initial management of	
hepatic and pancreatic injuries Closed severe burns	
chest injuries Tracheostomy	
Stab and gunshot wounds Emergency	
Arterial injuries thoracotomy	
Splenectomy for	
trauma Laparotomy for	
abdominal injury	

7.3 Surgical sepsis Superficial sepsis and abscesses Pyomyositis Abdomenal sepsis Empyaema and thoracic sepsis Intracranial sepsis	Tuberculous disease of the chest and abdomen Drainage of superficial abscesses Laparotomy for sepsis Chest drainage for sepsis Thoracotomy for sepsis Burr holes and craniotomy for
7.4 Critical care Hypotension Haemorrhage Haemorrhagic and thrombotic disorders Blood transfusion and blood component therapy Septicaemia and the sepsis syndrome Antibiotic therapy and the management of opportunist infection Gastro-intestinal fluid losses and fluid balance, including in children Nutritional failure and nutritional support Respiratory failure Renal failure and principles of dialysis Fluid overload and cardiac failure Myocardial ischaemia Cardiac arrythmias Multiple organ failure	intracranial abscess Pain control Cardiac arrest, respiratory arrest and brain death <i>Organ donation</i> Hypo and hyperthermia Diagnosis of brain death <i>Legal & ethical aspect of transplantation</i> Tracheal Intubation Tracheostomy Surgical airway Cardio-pulmonary resuscitation Chest drain insertion Central venous line insertion Insertion of peritoneal dialysis catheter Primary vascular access for haemodialysis A detailed knowledge of the methods and results of invasive monitoring will <i>not</i> be required

7.5 Gastrointestinal surgery	Diagnostic upper GI endoscopy
Neoplasms of the upper GI tract	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy
Gallstone disease	Conversion to open cholecystectomy
Jaundice	Exploration of common bile duct
Gastro-oesophageal reflux and its	Biliary bypass
complications	Gastrectomy
Hiatus hernia	Splenectomy
Peptic ulceration and its complications	Proctoscopy/rigid sigmoidoscopy
Radiation enteritis	Flexible sigmoidoscopy & colonoscopy,
Neoplasms of large bowel	diagnostic and therapeutic
Diverticular disease	Outpatient haemorrhoid treatment
Irritable bowel syndrome	Haemorrhoidectomy
Haemorrhoids	Procedures for fistula in ano
Anal fissure	Right hemicolectomy
Rectal	Left hemicolectomy
prolapse	Sub-total colectomy
Fistula in ano	Resections for rectal cancer, restorative
Diverticular disease/fistula	and excisional
Colostomy complications	Illeorectal anastomosis
Ileostomy complications	Panproctocolectomy
Inflammatory bowel disease (inc medical	Closure of Hartmann's procedure
management)	Rectal injuries
7.6 Surgery of the skin & integument	Excision of skin lesions
Pathology, diagnosis and management of	Excision of skin tumours
skin lesions, benign and malignant	Split and full thickness skin grafting
Basal and squamous cell carcinoma	Node biopsy
Malignant melanoma	Block dissection of axilla and groin
Other skin cancers	Surgery for soft tissue tumours including
	sarcomas
7.7 Endocrine surgery / neck surgery	Thyroid lobectomy
Diagnosis & management of neck lumps	Retrosternal goitre
	Thyroglossal cystectomy
Physiology & pathology of:	Submandibular salivary gland excision
Thryoid	Parotidectomy
Parathyroid	Approach and exploration of adrenal
Adrenal cortex	glands
Adrenal medulla	<u></u>

Management of:	
Thyrotoxicosis	
Adrenal insufficiency	
Hyper and hypo thyroidism	
Carcinoid syndrome	
Anaesthetic and pharmacological	
problems	
Imaging techniques for endocrine organs	
inaging techniques for endocrine organs	
7.8 Breast surgery	Treatment of breast
Carcinoma of the breast	abscess Fine needle
Benign breast disease	aspiration cytology
Hormone therapy for benign and malignant	Trucut biopsy
breast disease	Excision of breast lump
Histo-/cytopathology	Mastectomy
Mammography	Wide excision of breast tumours
Ultrasound	Axillary dissection with other breast
Adjuvant chemotherapy:	operations
Chemotherapy for advanced disease	
Radiotherapy	
Counselling	
Hospice care	
7.9 Hernias	Surgery for all abdominal herniae,
External and internal abdominal herniae.	using open and laparoscopic
Anatomy, presentation, complications	techniques Repair of childrens'
Hernia in childhood	herniae
7.10 Urology	Operations for hydrocoele, epididymal
	cyst and varicocoele
Development and natural history of the	Adult circumcision
prepuce	Vasectomy
Pathology of the scrotum and its contents	-
Male sterilization, including counselling and	
informed consent	
7.11 Paediatric surgery	Ramstedt's procedure
	Orchidopexy
Childrens tumours eg Wilms	Circumcision in children
Congenital abnormalities of bladder and	
abdominal wall	

Anorectal anomalies	
Tracheoesophageal abnormalities	
7.12 Vascular surgery Atherosclerosis Ischaemic limb Aneurysmal disease Venous thrombosis & embolism Hyper-hypo coagulable state Chronic venous insufficiency Arteriography Vascular CT scanning Magnetic Resonance Angiography Vascular ultrasound Varicose veins Mesenteric ischaemia	Vascular suture/anastomosis Approach to/control of infra-renal aortic, iliac and femoral arteries Control of venous bleeding <i>Balloon thrombo-embolectomy</i> Amputations of the lower limb Fasciotomy Primary operation for varicose veins <i>Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair,</i> <i>elective and ruptured</i> <i>Femoro-popliteal bypass</i> <i>Femoro-femoral bypass</i>
7.13 Research and ethics Critical appraisal of the surgical literature Scientific method & statistics as applied to surgery Informed consent Ethical aspects of surgical practice Genetic aspects of surgical disease	
7.14 Minimal Access surgery Physiology of pneumo-peritoneum Informed consent for laparoscopic procedures Pre and post operative management of laparoscopic cases Port complications Technology of video imaging, cameras, insufflator etc Laparoscopic instruments, clips, staplers and port types Management of equipment failure Recognition and management of laparoscopic complications Use and dangers of diathermy	Diagnostic laparoscopy Closed and open techniques of port insertion Laparoscopic biopsy Laparoscopic appendicectomy Laparoscopic adhesiolysis Thoracoscopy Laparoscopic suturing and knotting Control of laparoscopic bleeding

Anaesthetic problems in laparoscopic surgery	
7.15 Other surgical specialties	Open and closed reduction of
Limb trauma	dislocations
Open and closed Fractures	Manipulation and POP splintage of
Dislocation of joints	fractures
Nerve injuries	Skin and skeletal traction
Flexor and extensor tendon repairs	Open fracture debridement and external
Acute septic arthritis	fixation
Spinal injury	Nerve repair Flexor and extensor tendon repair
	Surgical approaches to the joints and
Head injury	arthrotomy
	Emergency management of spinal injury
Open and closed Chest injuries	
	Emergency management of closed and
	open head injury
Obstetric and gynaecological emergencies	Burr holes and craniotomy
	Insertion and management of chest
Anaesthesia	drains
	Thoracotomy and post-operative
	management
	-
	Approaches to the female pelvis
	Episiotomy
	Caesarean section
	Surgery for ruptured ectopic pregnancy
	Use of local anaesthesia
	Digital block
	Axillary block
	Spinal anaesthesia
	Use of ketamine
	Simple general anaesthesia

INDICATIVE RESOURCES

Brunicardi F, Andersen D, Billiar T, Dunn D, Hunter J, Kao L, Matthews J and Pollock R (2019), **Schwartz's Principles of Surgery**, 11th Edition, McGraw-Hill Education, USA.

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Townsend C, Beauchamp D, Evers M and Mattox K (2021) **Sabiston Textbook of Surgery, The Biological Basis of Modern Surgical Practice**, 21st Edition, Elsevier Inc. St. Louis, USA.

Williams N, O'connell R and McCaskie A (2018) **Bailey & Love's Short Practice of Surgery**, 27th Edition, CRC Press, Taylor and Francis group, Florida, USA.