



Department of Surgery/General Surgery Section

Credentialing Criteria for Advanced Laparoscopic Procedures

Statement of Intent: Given the rapidly changing technological environment in which physicians practice, the following criteria are established to afford cognizant and responsible attention to credentialing of advanced laparoscopic surgical procedures. It is understood that the laparoscope, while only a tool, involves a level of mechanical ability but as importantly involves didactic knowledge specific to its use and medical practice.

In evaluating qualifications by individual surgeons for performance of advance laparoscopy in surgical practice (both electively and incidentally), the following minimum criteria are established.

Definition of Scope: These criteria are established to address evolving applications of the laparoscope as it relates to therapeutic intervention traditionally performed as open procedures (e.g., herniorrhaphy, colectomy, appendectomy, antireflux, peptic ulcer).

TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

I. Completion of a General Surgery residency program recognized by the AMA or AOA, which demonstrates:

A. Performance of a minimum of 15 laparoscopic procedures as the First Assist;

AND

B. Which specifically relate to the scope of surgical privileges requested (i.e., biliary procedures, gynecological);

AND

C. For which the applicant meets other qualifications that may apply to the performance of a specified procedure, i.e., cholecystectomy;

OR

II. For experienced individuals whose general surgery residency program may not have included laparoscopy, the following apply:

A. Prior demonstrated experience (Op notes) with use of the laparoscope (diagnostic or therapeutic) as a primary credentialed surgeon for a minimum of 15 laparoscopic procedures.

AND

B. Attendance at a professionally recognized "Advanced" course which provides instruction in laparoscopic tissue handling, knot tying and equipment utilization (e.g., staplers) as well as "hands-on" animal experience in "advanced" procedures (e.g., hernia repair, bowel resection, antireflux, hysterectomy procedures);

OR

III. For surgeons with no prior experience in performing laparoscopic procedures, the following applies:

- A. Attendance at a professionally recognized "Basic" course addressing diagnostic laparoscopy or at a professionally recognized "Advanced" course that includes diagnostic technique;

AND

- B. Experience in a hospital setting assisting a previously credentialed surgeon with a minimum of 15 laparoscopic procedures to allow adequate facility in the safe application of pneumoperitoneum and laparoscopic techniques;

AND

- C. Experience as First Assist on a minimum of three (3) laparoscopic procedures for which the applicant is seeking.

OBSERVATION REQUIREMENTS

General Conditions: The following observation requirements are privilege-specific and are in addition to the general observation requirements of the Department of Surgery unless otherwise noted. The general protocol/principles of observation as stated in the Department's Rules shall apply. It is expected that in general, quality assessment/improvement activities of the Department will support an ongoing assessment of outcomes and experience as it relates to new and advanced technologies. It is also understood that applicants for procedures that have not heretofore been performed at McLaren Greater Lansing shall require evaluation of (institutional) resources as well as evaluation by the Department and/or appropriate Section(s) of the risk and benefits of the new technology. Provision of supporting information shall be the responsibility of the applicant as requested.

- I. For those with recent formal training meeting the training and experience qualifications as noted above, no specific observation requirements apply, except as may be part of the General Observation Requirements of the Department. However, if a question of adequate experience arises, observation may be specifically indicated as a condition of privileging.
- II. For those who have prior laparoscopic experience, a minimum of three (3) specified "advanced" procedures for which the surgeon has requested will be performed along with a surgeon assistant. If desired, the procedure may be videotaped and retrospectively reviewed by a third person, to be assigned by a Co-Chairman of the Department.
- III. For those who have no prior experience, a minimum of three (3) specified procedures for which the surgeon has requested will be directly observed. The observer, to be appointed by the Chairman of the Department, shall be an objective, experienced and credentialed physician in the specified procedure and who is held accountable to the institution and the Professional Staff.