

### **Appendix 3: General Surgery Critical Conditions**

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The list of critical conditions covers a range of conditions where misdiagnosis or mismanagement can result in devastating consequences for life or limb.

These critical conditions can be assessed individually by means of the CBD and CEX which both include an assessment of clinical judgement and decision-making. To ensure that trainees have demonstrated the necessary skills to manage the defined critical conditions, by certification there should be documented evidence of performance at the level of a day-one consultant to level 4: *Appropriate for certification* in each of the critical conditions (see CBD/CEX forms for the full list of levels) . In addition, trainees should complete an indicative number of 10 CBDs or CEXs in their special interest area showing satisfactory performance by certification. However, it should be noted that meeting the numbers does not, in itself, imply competence.

#### **General**

- Assessment of the acute abdomen  
Include differential diagnosis, operative and conservative treatment in the discussion
- Strangulated / obstructed hernia
- Intestinal ischaemia
- Intestinal obstruction  
Include small and large bowel obstruction in the discussion
- Post-operative haemorrhage  
Include different operative sites (e.g. neck surgery) in the discussion
- Acute gastrointestinal haemorrhage  
Include both upper and lower GI bleeding in the discussion
- Blunt / penetrating abdominal injury  
Include physiological response and management of blunt and penetrating injury in the discussion
- Necrotising fasciitis  
Include other severe soft tissue infections in the discussion (e.g. diabetic foot infection)
- Sepsis  
Include recognition and management in the discussion
- Anastomotic leak  
Include large bowel and small bowel anastomotic leak

#### **Colorectal**

- Acute colitis / toxic megacolon
- Faecal peritonitis

#### **UGI**

- Biliary sepsis  
Include all causes and their management in the discussion
- Acute pancreatitis
- Oesophageal perforation
- Upper GI anastomotic leak

#### **Vascular**

- Ruptured AAA
- Acute limb ischaemia
- Compartment syndrome