

Appendix 4: Index procedures / Indicative Numbers

Each specialty requires technical skills to be achieved across a wide range of operative procedures as described in the syllabus. Assessment of a trainee's ability to carry out this full range of procedures is covered by the supervision level decisions made when assessing the shared CiPs. These assess not only the necessary technical skills but the totality of capabilities required to carry them out.

Neurosurgery also has a list of index procedures which are felt to be of significant importance for patient safety and to demonstrate a safe breadth of practice. These index procedures will be assessed individually by means of the Procedure Based Assessment (PBA) which will both provide formative feedback to the trainee and feed into the summative assessments of the AES Report and ARCP. There should be evidence that a representative proportion of the operations in each group have been assessed and recorded on the ISCP at the expected skill level shown in the table below.

PBA levels

Level 2a: Guidance required for most/all of the procedure (or part performed)

Level 2b: Guidance or intervention required for key steps only

Level 3a: Procedure performed with minimal guidance or intervention (needed occasional help)

Level 3b: Procedure performed competently without guidance or intervention but lacked fluency

Level 4a: Procedure performed fluently without guidance or intervention

Level 4b: As 4a and was able to anticipate, avoid and/or deal with common problems/complications

An indicative three or more PBAs must be achieved at the specified level to progress between phases of training. The paediatric surgery index cases require only one PBA at the specified level.

Trainees should have undertaken an indicative 1200 operations during training to include an indicative 70 paediatric cases and 250 spinal cases.

Index procedure	Indicative number (excluding assisted) by certification	Indicative technical skill (PBA) level expected at end of phase 2	Technical skill (PBA) level expected by certification
Advanced Adult Supratentorial	10	3	4
Endoscopic and Transphenoidal	10	3	3 (4 if special interest)
Convexity and falcine meningiomas	10	3	4
Advanced adult infratentorial	10	3	4

Intradural Spine	5	3	4
Complex Spinal Fusion	10	3	3 (4 if special interest)
Advanced paediatric supratentorial	1	2	2 (3 if special interest)
Advanced paediatric infratentorial	1	2	2 (3 if special interest)