

Index Procedures - Cardiothoracic surgery

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 and specialty-specific CiPs. These assess not only the necessary technical skills but the totality of capabilities required to carry them out.

The index procedures are of significant importance for patient safety and to demonstrate a safe breadth of practice. They will be assessed individually by means of the PBA which will both provide formative feedback to the trainee and feed into the summative AES report and ARCP.

To ensure that trainees have the necessary skills in the index procedures, by certification (the end of phase 3) there should be documented evidence in the portfolio of performance at the level of a day-one consultant by means of the PBA (typically to 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*. See the PBA form for the full list of levels). Please note that there is no requirement for a certain number of PBAs, however.

The Cardiac Surgery index procedures are:

1. Isolated first time CABG
2. Isolated uncomplicated Aortic Valve Replacement
3. Combined AVR + CABG
4. Isolated uncomplicated Mitral Valve Replacement (at level 3a/b PBA)

The Thoracic Surgery index procedures are:

1. Anatomical lung resection (VATS / Open / Robotic)
2. Decortication and/or washout of empyema
3. Pneumothorax surgery (VATS / Open)
4. Resection of mediastinal lesion

Cardiothoracic Surgery indicative numbers

There are indicative numeric requirements for the number of operations performed. This has been agreed as 250 major cases. The major cases will include index procedures with the majority of procedures in the area of special interest.

Examples of major cases include:

Cardiac Surgery Major Cases

- Coronary Artery Bypass Grafting (CABG), either alone or in combination with another procedure, such as valve repair or replacement

- Valve repair or replacement, either alone or in combination with CABG or any other cardiac procedure
- Thoracic aortic surgery
- Other major cardiac surgical cases involving cardiopulmonary bypass (CPB), such as post infarct ventricular septal defect (VSD) repair, excision of atrial myxoma or pericardiectomy.
- Implantation of the heart or lung (transplantation)
- Heart-lung block retrieval
- Any congenital cardiac procedure (atrial septal defect closure, VSD closure, patent ductus arteriosus (PDA) ligation etc.)

Thoracic Surgery Major Cases

- Anatomical lung resection (open, video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) or Robotic)
- Correction of pectus deformity
- Decortication and/or washout of empyema
- Thoracotomy for trauma
- Chest wall resection and reconstruction
- Tracheal resection
- Surgery of pneumothorax (VATS/open)
- Resection of mediastinal lesion
- Diaphragmatic surgery
- Lung volume reduction surgery