

Paediatric Surgery Critical Conditions from October 2026:

From the syllabus, a list of critical conditions has been identified which are of significant importance for patient safety and demonstration of a safe breadth of practice. Across surgery, these are defined as any condition where a misdiagnosis could be associated with devastating consequences for life or limb. These critical conditions are assessed individually by means of the Case Based Discussion (CBD) and Clinical Evaluation Exercise (CEX), which both include an assessment of clinical judgement and decision-making.

To ensure that trainees have the necessary skills in the critical conditions below, 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 CBD or CEX as appropriate (at level 4: Appropriate for certification. See CBD/CEX forms for the full list of levels).

1. Neonatal and Congenital Conditions (CBD/CEX required for each of the following) 9 minimum CBD/CEX

- Congenital Diaphragmatic Hernia (CDH)
- Oesophageal Atresia with/without Tracheoesophageal Fistula (OA/TOF)
- Abdominal wall defects (Gastroschisis and Omphalocele)
- Intestinal Atresia (Duodenal, Jejunoileal, Colonic Atresia)
- Malrotation and Midgut Volvulus
- Hirschsprung's Disease and Enterocolitis
- Necrotizing Enterocolitis (NEC) with Intestinal Perforation
- Congenital Lung Lesions (CCAM, Pulmonary Sequestration, Bronchogenic Cyst)
- Anorectal malformations including cloacal anomalies

2. Paediatric Gastrointestinal Emergencies (CBD/CEX required for each of the following) 6 minimum CBD/CEX

- Non bilious vomiting (Hypertrophic Pyloric Stenosis (HPS), oesophageal strictures, Achalasia)
- Bilious vomiting (malrotation, Intestinal obstruction & ischaemia, Intussusception: Surgical and Non-Surgical Management, incarcerated hernias)
- Acute GI haemorrhage (including Meckel's Diverticulum)
- The acute abdomen (Appendicitis with complications, Pancreatitis with Complications)
- Acute jaundice (Hepatobiliary including Choledochal Cysts, Acute cholecystitis)
- Faecal Impaction and Toxic Megacolon (Hirschsprung's Disease and Enterocolitis, Constipation)

3. Paediatric Trauma and Acute Care Surgery (CBD/CEX required for any of the following) 2 minimum CBD/CEX different conditions

- Blunt and Penetrating Abdominal Trauma

- Paediatric Solid Organ Injury (Liver, Spleen, Kidney)
- Pneumothorax and Haemothorax requiring Tube Thoracostomy
- Paediatric Polytrauma with Haemorrhagic Shock
- Cervical and Thoracic Spine Injuries in Children
- Abdominal Compartment Syndrome
- Emergency Vascular Injuries

4. Paediatric Oncology Surgical Conditions (CBD/CEX required for any of the following) 5 minimum CBD/CEX different conditions

- Abdominal mass (benign & malignant including: Wilms Tumour, Neuroblastoma & ganglioneuroma, Hepatoblastoma)
- Rhabdomyosarcoma (including urogenital)
- Mediastinal & Thoracic Masses (including Lymphoma, Germ Cell Tumours)
- Ovarian and Testicular Tumours in Children
- Adrenal tumours (Neuroblastoma and Pheochromocytoma)

5. Paediatric Urology and Genitourinary Surgery (CBD/CEX required for each of the following) 5 minimum CBD/CEX

- Acute scrotum
- Penile problems (to include BXO, Meatal stenosis, paraphimosis)
- Obstructive Uropathies & Urosepsis (Posterior Urethral Valves, Ureteropelvic Junction Obstruction, Hydronephrosis)
- Bladder Exstrophy and Epispadias Complex (acute management)
- Neurogenic Bladder
- Differences of sex development

6. Paediatric Vascular Access (CBD/CEX required for the following) 1 minimum CBD/CEX

- Central Venous Line Placement (PICC, Broviac, Hickman, access for Haemodialysis)

7. Paediatric Thoracic Surgery and Airway Emergencies (CBD/CEX required for each of the following) 2 minimum CBD/CEX different conditions

- Foreign bodies- (ingested & inhaled)
- Pneumothorax or Empyema requiring intervention

8. Head and neck lumps (CBD/CEX required for any of the following) 1 minimum CBD/CEX

- Benign & malignant lumps (causes of cervical lymphadenopathy, disease of Thyroid gland, other cysts in the neck)