

**Hong Kong College of Anaesthesiologists
Definition of Subspecialty Experience**

1. CORE SUBSPECIALTIES

1.1 Anaesthesia for general surgery /urology /gynaecology (500 cases)

- 1.1.1 At least 100 cases shall be at or above 65 years of age
- 1.1.2 General surgery refers to abdominal surgery, breast surgery, minor vascular procedures, lumps and bumps, plastic and other surgical procedures not included under other subspecialties. Abdominal surgery includes surgery for the gastrointestinal tract, hepatobiliary system, pancreas, adrenals and hernia. Minor vascular surgery includes varicose veins, arterio-venous fistulas, small AV malformations, embolectomies of peripheral arteries)
- 1.1.3 Urology includes all types of genitourinary surgery in male (surgery on prostate, bladder, ureter, kidney and penis) and urological procedures in females.
- 1.1.4 Gynaecological procedures include all procedures of general gynaecology, gynaecological oncology and urogynaecological procedures.

1.2 Anaesthesia for orthopaedics and traumatology (500 cases)

- 1.2.1 At least 100 cases shall be at or above 65 years of age
- 1.2.2 Includes a mix of joint replacement (hip, knee) surgery, spine surgery (laminectomy, spinal fusions, instrumentations of spine including scoliosis surgery), microvascular surgery, surgery for fractures and malignancies of bones / related tissues.

1.3 Obstetrics anaesthesia (100 cases)

- 1.3.1 Includes anaesthesia for operative delivery.

1.4 Obstetric regional analgesia (50 cases)

- 1.4.1 Only regional analgesic techniques are counted.

1.5 Neuroanaesthesia (100 cases)

- 1.5.1 Includes a mix of elective and emergency operations on or within the cranium, and on the spinal cord proper.
- 1.5.2 Interventional neuroradiological procedures can be counted.

1.6 Thoracic anaesthesia (50 cases)

- 1.6.1 Includes operations involving a thoracotomy (VAT or conventional), operations / procedures involving the tracheobronchial tree below the vocal cord and the mediastinum.

1.7 Paediatric anaesthesia (100 cases of children \leq 6 years, including neonates)

1.7.1 Includes all kinds of procedures for children

1.8 Anaesthesia for Head & Neck / ENT/ Oro-facio-maxillary (100 cases)

1.8.1 Head and Neck includes parotid, thyroid, parathyroid, larynx, pharynx, upper third of esophagus

1.8.2 Some experience in managing difficult airway is required in this subspecialty experience.

1.9 Emergency / trauma anaesthesia (500 cases)

1.9.1 Trauma anaesthesia includes the emergency management of poly-trauma patient at the AED or on-site.

1.9.2 Emergency anaesthesia includes anaesthesia for all types of emergency operations.

1.10 Acute pain management (300 patient-days)

1.10.1 Includes a mix of regional and parenteral techniques for providing acute pain treatment.

2. NON-CORE SUBSPECIALTIES:

Some experience in all of the subspecialties listed would be required. Trainees will be required to complete two modules from category 1 and a minimum of 20 cases from category 2.

2.1 Category 1 NON-CORE modules

2.1.1 Ophthalmic anaesthesia (50 cases)

2.1.1.1 All kinds of ophthalmic procedures with a mix of both intra-ocular and extraocular procedures

2.1.2 Day surgery anaesthesia (100 cases)

2.1.2.1 All kinds of procedures done on a day-stay basis

2.1.2.2 Some experience at the pre-anaesthetic clinic would be preferred. The number of patients seen at the pre-anaesthetic clinic will NOT be counted towards the 100.

2.1.3 Anaesthesia in non-operating theatre locations including but not limited to Organ Imaging Suite, Endoscopy Suite, Cardiac Catheterisation Laboratory, ECT (50 cases)

2.1.4 Pain medicine (50 chronic / cancer pain cases)

2.1.4.1 Includes a mix of old and new chronic and cancer pain patients.

2.2 Category 2 NON-CORE Modules

2.2.1 Major vascular anaesthesia

2.2.1.1 Includes anaesthesia for surgery / minimally invasive procedures on the aorta and other large arteries / vessels.

2.2.2 Cardiac anaesthesia

- 2.2.2.1 Includes operations involving the heart (open /closed) with or without the use of cardiopulmonary bypass.
 - 2.2.2.2 Operations involving the pulmonary and other proximal vessels may also be counted.
 - 2.2.2.3 A good mix of valvular, ischaemic open and closed heart procedures would be desirable.
 - 2.2.3 Transplant anaesthesia
 - 2.2.3.1 Includes the harvesting and grafting of major organs like heart, liver, lung and kidney.
 - 2.2.4 Neonatal anaesthesia
 - 2.2.4.1 All kinds of procedures being performed on the neonate.
 - 2.2.4.2 Those anaesthetics counted towards the core paediatric anaesthesia category cannot be counted in this category.
- 3. As there might be some overlap in the definitions of various subspecialty categories, an operation may sometimes be classified under different categories by different trainees or supervisors. This overlap between different subspecialty categories although NOT intended is sometimes inevitable. In any case, double counting (a patient being counted under more than 1 subspecialties for the same operative theatre attendance) is strictly NOT allowed. In this instance, if a trainee has to administer an epidural anaesthesia for a parturient to whom an epidural catheter was inserted earlier by the trainee for epidural analgesia, two procedures will be counted.

First promulgated February 2004.