

**Undergraduate Medical Education Program
Summary of Objectives – Surgery**

Goal Statement:

By the end of the Surgery unit, a Dalhousie Medical Student will have the knowledge, skills and attitudes to care for the surgical patient through investigation, diagnosis, treatment, and convalescence.

Key Objectives for the Unit:

By the end of the clerkship the student will be able to:

1. Describe the relevant anatomy and pathophysiology of common surgical problems including disorders involving the: (2.3)

Inner and outer ear, nasal passages, and oropharynx
Thyroid and parathyroid
Gastrointestinal tract (esophagus, stomach, small and large intestine)
Hepatobiliary system (liver and biliary tract)
Pancreas
Breast
Hernias
Cardiovascular system (heart and blood vessels)
Pulmonary system (lung and major airways)
Integumentary system
Neurologic system (brain, spinal cord, and peripheral nerves)
Musculoskeletal system (muscles, bones, joints)
Urogenital system (kidney, bladder and prostate)

2. Obtain an accurate, focused history from, and perform an appropriate physical examination of, patients presenting with surgical disorders of the aforementioned systems. (2.1, 2.2)

3. Request and interpret the results of appropriate laboratory and imaging investigations for these surgical conditions, while making efficient use of limited resources. (2.5)

4. Describe the management options and appropriate strategies for treatment of these surgical conditions. (2.3)

5. Manage, under supervision, peri-operative fluid administration and correct electrolyte imbalances. (2.3)

6. Describe the prevention and management of common post-operative complications including: wound infection or dehiscence, atelectasis, pneumonia, ileus, sepsis, organ failure, urinary retention, delirium and venous thromboembolism. (2.3)

7. Participate in the initial assessment and management of a polytraumatized patient, and describe the priorities of resuscitation, investigation and treatment. (2.3)

8. Describe requirements and procedures for obtaining informed consent for surgical procedures. (2.1, 2.4)

9. Collaborate and communicate effectively with other members of the Healthcare team to deliver optimal care to the surgical patient, while demonstrating professionalism and respect for others. (2.9)

10. Demonstrate competence in performing common procedures including venipuncture, intravenous access, nasogastric intubation, urinary catheterization, skin suturing, and knot tying. (2.3)