

DRAFT POSITION STATEMENT ON RESOURCES FOR GENERAL SURGEONS

General surgeons across Canada provide essential core services including Emergency and Trauma care. General Surgery is a hospital-based specialty which requires access to hospital resources. The needs of individual surgeons will vary considerably depending on their type of practice, their special interests, academic duties and the needs of the community they serve.

Hospital boards across the country are in the process of re-organization. These boards are committed to provide quality care in a cost efficient manner. Hospital boards are dependant upon general surgeons amongst other specialists for the delivery of essential services.

General Surgeons and their respective hospital boards must recognize their mutual interdependence and appreciate each other's concerns in a rapidly changing environment. For their part the Board of CAGS, on behalf of General Surgeons in Canada, is committed to the provision of quality surgical care including emergency and trauma care. This requires adequate resources.

General Surgeons recognize the constraints under which boards operate and will work to achieve cost containment as long as surgical standards are not compromised.

For their parts hospital boards must recognize:

1. The key role of general surgeons in providing core services for the population.
2. The hospital dependant nature of general surgical practice.
3. The need to provide adequate resources for the general surgeons to provide these core and essential services.
4. General Surgeons must also have sufficient resources to conduct elective general surgery practice. These resources include and not restricted to: in-patient beds, operating room time, endoscopic and laparoscopic equipment and time, clinic space and access to other basic clinical specialties.
5. Surgeons must have appropriate access to laboratory, x-ray, anaesthetic and intensive care services commensurate with the needs of their patients.