

AMERICAN BOARD OF COLON & RECTAL SURGERY

POLICY FOR ASSESSING MINIMUM CASE NUMBERS

Adopted September 28, 2008

Revised September 18, 2011

Six Key Index Areas

Effective with the residency year July 1, 2010 – June 30, 2011, a “Zero” case rule has been established. **Each resident must complete a minimum of ONE procedure in each of the following Key Index Areas:**

1. Pouch Surgery (Colitis or FAP)
2. Prolapse Surgery
3. Fistula Surgery
4. Hemorrhoid Surgery
5. Incontinence Surgery
6. Abdominal Proctectomy alone (or as part of a Total Proctocolectomy)

Failure to perform any one of these core procedures will preclude the candidate from taking the qualifying examination.

The Board developed a policy for re-consideration/re-entry of applicants who do not meet the Zero Case Rule. It is as follows:

Applicants will be required to make up the deficient procedure(s) either (1) at their original training program, or (2) at their present institution. Any remedial procedure(s) must be performed under the direct supervision of their original Colorectal Surgery Residency Program Director, or a designated faculty member also from the original training program.

It is strongly suggested that program directors review the case numbers of each resident frequently during the academic year and monitor their progress in comparison to the ACGME/RRC recommended case minimums. Following the September 2011 review of the operative case lists, the Standards Committee acknowledged that there was a general improvement in the overall case numbers submitted in all categories proposed by the Blue Ribbon Committee. Therefore, minimum numbers will not be mandated at this time. Program directors must instruct their residents to adhere to the recommended minimum case as they represent the proposed optimal number of cases that colon and rectal residents should strive to achieve. Information Regarding the RRC Colon and Rectal Surgery Procedures and Minimums can be found at:

http://www.acgme.org/acWebsite/RRC_060/060_Colon_and_Rectal_Surgery_Procedures_and_Minimums.pdf

The Standards and Credentials Committee will annually continue to review each applicant’s case logs and make individual assessments of the overall quality of technical training. If sufficient technical experience has not been demonstrated, the program director and the candidate will be notified.