

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN THORACIC SURGERY

In partnership with key opinion leaders and industry professionals, SRC developed the Center of Excellence in Thoracic Surgery (COETS) program. The COETS program identifies surgeons and facilities worldwide performing thoracic surgery and achieving defined standards for patient safety and care quality.



PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

1. INSTITUTIONAL COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE

The applicant facility is committed to excellence in thoracic surgery and has credentialing and privileging guidelines thoracic surgery.

2. SURGICAL EXPERIENCE

The applicant facility performs at least 125 thoracic surgery procedures annually. Each applicant surgeon performs at least 100 qualifying thoracic surgeries annually.

3. PHYSICIAN PROGRAM DIRECTOR

The applicant facility must appoint a Physician Program Director for the COETS program who is accredited or in the process of becoming accredited.

4. CONSULTATIVE SERVICES

The applicant facility must have a full complement of consultative services required for the routine and intensive care of thoracic surgery patients and their potential complications including: anesthesiologist or CRNA, ACLS-certified physician or team, cardiologist, general surgeon, physician capable of performing bronchoscopies, critical care specialist, hospitalist, pulmonologist, radiologist, vascular surgeon, interventional radiologist, infectious disease specialist and oncologist.

5. EQUIPMENT AND INSTRUMENTS

The applicant facility must maintain a full line of equipment and surgical instruments to provide perioperative care for thoracic surgery patients and have documented training for appropriate staff in the safe operation of this equipment.

6. SURGEON DEDICATION AND QUALIFIED CALL COVERAGE

Each applicant surgeon has privileges in thoracic surgery at the applicant facility, is board-certified or an active candidate for board certification in their surgical specialty and has qualified call coverage. Each applicant completes at least 12 hours of CME focused on thoracic surgery every three years.

7. CLINICAL PATHWAYS AND STANDARDIZED OPERATING PROCEDURES

Applicants formally develop and implement all required clinical pathways that facilitate the standardization of perioperative care for thoracic surgeries. Applicants perform each surgical procedure in a standardized manner and uses a template for operative note dictation that ensures proper collection of data for surgical procedures.

8. SURGICAL TEAM AND SUPPORT STAFF

The applicant facility employs a program coordinator, nurses and/or physician extenders and an operative team trained to care for thoracic surgery patients and provides ongoing, regularly scheduled staff education in-services.

9. PATIENT EDUCATION

The facility and each applicant surgeon provide all thoracic surgery patients with preoperative patient education and have a process for obtaining informed surgical consent and selecting procedures that are most appropriate for each patient's condition.

10. CONTINUOUS QUALITY ASSESSMENT

All applicants must collect prospective outcomes data on all patients who undergo thoracic surgeries in SRC's Outcomes Database (or a similar qualifying database).

This is a summarized list of program requirements which is subject to change. For additional information, please contact SRC by emailing businessdevelopment@surgicalreview.org or calling 919.614.2623.