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A consultant surgeon is a registered medical practitioner who has undergone approved training and acquired appropriate experience in a surgical specialty such as to allow entry on to the UK *Specialist Register* and who has been appointed by a recognised procedure such as an *Advisory Appointment Committee* to provide a surgical service as part of a clinical team. The consultant surgeon, in providing this service, is expected to manage the main condition of the patient, but recognise the need to call in others from the same or different specialties at his or her discretion; to delegate clinical and administrative responsibility at his or her discretion; and to act as the advocate of the patient in relation to their treatment and wellbeing.

The principle commitment for a consultant surgeon is the provision of a surgical service. As part of this, the consultant surgeon takes responsibility and accountability for the management of all or part of his or her clinical service; for the educational, training and other professional development needs of some or all of the members of that team including himself/herself; for the efficient and effective used of resources within that service; and for the further development of that service by outcome measurement, clinical audit and, where possible and relevant, research.

A consultant surgeon is not just someone who is capable of performing



Particularly, the experience they bring makes them high-level decision makers, able to understand the complexities of illnesses in a way that those with less experience cannot. It is important for patients to know that a named consultant is in direct charge of their care, familiar with their case, and is their point of contact in case of any queries or concerns. There is a complexitp(1)-2.166(h)-4317(a)5.6