

## Health Technology Appraisal

### **Laparoscopic surgery for the treatment of colorectal cancer (Review of Technology Appraisal Guidance No. 17)**

#### Comments on the ACD

06/04/2006

In relation to the published ACD, I believe that the preliminary recommendations put forward by the Appraisal Committee are consistent with the evidence available and should allow for the safe wider introduction of this beneficial technology.

Specifying a frequency of operation to maintain competence is admirable but is applicable to all types of surgery in all specialities – not just laparoscopic surgery. Surgeons will need to start somewhere and by definition will have an experience of zero with their first case. This has to be accepted as a fact of life and should not be a barrier to progression.

There is currently no body accrediting surgeons for procedure specific tasks. The Royal Colleges accredit surgeons through their exam systems. It should be recognised that the preceptorship programme does not accredit surgeons but simply allows a mechanism for qualified surgeons to access expertise and training in a particular field.

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