

Readiness of US general surgery residents for independent practice.

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George BC, Bohnen JD, Williams RG, et al. Readiness of US General Surgery Residents for Independent Practice. Ann Surg. 2017;266(4):582-594. doi:10.1097/SLA.0000000000002414.

<https://psnet.ahrq.gov/issue/readiness-us-general-surgery-residents-independent-practice>

Insufficient trainee [supervision](#) may lead to adverse events, but lack of [autonomy](#) may leave trainee physicians unprepared for independent practice. In this direct observation [surgical education](#) study, attending physicians rated readiness for independent practice and level of supervision for [surgical trainees](#) performing specific core procedures throughout the course of their training. At the end of training, 90% of trainees performed competently on average complexity patients, but this proportion dropped to less than 80% for the most complex cases. For about two-thirds of core procedures, surgical residents still had significant supervision in their last 6 months of training. The authors raise concerns about whether graduating residents have sufficient experience practicing independently to enter clinical practice. A previous [PSNet perspective](#) advocated for continued appropriate supervision to augment patient safety.