

UND DEPARTMENT OF SURGERY

FUNDAMENTALS OF LAPAROSCOPIC SURGERY (FLS) TESTING AND RE-TESTING POLICY

All residents completing residency training and applying for Board certification are required by the American Board of Surgery to have completed the FLS certification process during their residency training. The UND Department of Surgery requires that this certification process be completed by the end of the PGY-I categorical year. The initial testing cost is provided by the UND Department of Surgery but any subsequent testing fees due to failure of any part of the certification process is borne by the resident. All scheduling of FLS testing is done through the Department of Surgery office.

Effective July 1, 2011, any resident who has failed any portion of the FLS certification process must retake the test within three (3) months of the original testing date. Failure to do so will result in the loss of 25 points on the UND Surgery Department Resident Point System.

Successful completion of basic technical skills is a core building block for surgical residency training. Failure to successfully complete the FLS examination by the end of the PGY 1 year is not compatible with acquisition of the necessary technical skills to complete a surgical residency or practice independently as a general surgeon. **Residents who do not successfully complete the FLS testing process by October 1st of their PGY2 year will be considered for dismissal by the Competency Committee.**

In summary:

1st Retake → must wait 30 days from original test date but no later than January 31st.

2nd Retake → must wait 6 months from 1st retake test date but no later than Sept 15th.

*All test results must be sent to UND Dept. of Surgery, 501 N Columbia Rd, Stop 9037, Room 5736, Grand Forks, ND 58203. Do not have them sent to your home address.

Note: SAGES/FLS retake policy:

“Retest Policy – If you fail one or both parts of the assessment, you only need to retake the portion of the exam that was not completed successfully (manual skills or cognitive, or both), as long as it has been less than 18 months since your original exam date. Any participant who fails one or both of the assessments must pay a fee to SAGES by purchasing a retest voucher. You must wait at least 30 days following the original test date before scheduling a re-test. If one or both are still not passed after the first retake, then you must wait at least 6 months for the next retake (hopefully devoting this time to increased study and experience). After three attempts a whole new registration process is required and both assessments must be purchased and completed anew even if one had been passed previously. Likewise, if one or both parts of the exam are not retaken successfully within 18 months of the original exam date, you must purchase a new voucher and take both parts of the exam in order to seek FLS certification. All retest vouchers expire 18 months from the test-taker’s original exam date regardless of when they were purchased.”

As of November 10, 2014, the price for a retake voucher is \$125.00. As stated in the FLS Policy, the retake fee is the responsibility of the resident.

Revised 11/10/14, 4/13/15, 5/6/14