

INTUITIVE

# Residency & Fellowship Training Implementation

A guide for lead educators



## Introduction

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This implementation guide outlines a suggested systematic program that is aligned with Intuitive's training pathways. Each phase is accompanied with applicable resources to help a lead educator (the individual responsible for the education of the resident or fellow) plan a training curriculum. All resources are on the da Vinci Online Community, [davincisurgerycommunity.com](https://www.davincisurgerycommunity.com), unless otherwise stated.

Phases in the guide include:

### Phase 1

Introduction to da Vinci surgical systems

### Phase 2

Da Vinci Skills Drills training

### Phase 3

Intra-operative and advanced skills application

### Phase 4

Participation in cases with da Vinci systems  
(Training Equivalency Certificate Pathway)

**Resources to support your transition to practice**

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In each training phase, the following activities are recommended to support learners in developing proficiency using the da Vinci surgical system. This guide can be used to implement a systematic program aligned with Intuitive's training pathways. Please refer to each task below for additional instruction and applicable resources. All resources are on the da Vinci Online Community [davincisurgerycommunity.com](https://www.davincisurgerycommunity.com), unless otherwise stated. Any online training sets can be found in the Training section.

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**Complete da Vinci surgical system online training for residents and fellows**

Aim to understand functions and features of da Vinci systems, instruments, and accessories

Topics may include system component overview and instruction in the use of system components, EndoWrist® instruments and accessories, and advanced options such as Single-Site® technology

Time varies based on system course; self-guided

Online training videos for the appropriate platform are available by logging into the da Vinci Online Community and accessing Intuitive Learning under the Training Tab

Alternatively, training videos are available through the Fundamentals of Robotics Surgery (FRS) website.

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Fundamentals of Robotics Surgery (FRS) Online Modules [www.frsurgery.com](http://www.frsurgery.com)
- Training Guide: Intuitive Learning (PN 1051726)

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**Review two full-length procedure videos**

Become more familiar with the use of da Vinci systems and surgical best practices

Procedure videos help learners become more familiar with the use of technology and surgical practices in da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery

Procedure cards and brochures are also available for select videos, which provide information on the set-up, procedure steps, and instruments and accessories used

Time varies based on system course; self-guided

Resources

- Da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery videos
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Da Vinci X System Overview In-Service Guide (PN 1033885)

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**Complete da Vinci system overview in-service training**

Gain hands-on experience using the da Vinci system

Three, two-hour sessions; guided by experienced surgeon or lead educator:

Session 1: System Component Overview, Docking, Port Placement

Session 2: Port Placement and Docking (repeat for practice),  
EndoWrist® Instrument Overview, Surgeon Console Overview

Session 3: Surgeon Console Overview (repeat), Emergency Procedures,  
Powering Off System

Resources

- Da Vinci Si System Overview In-service Guide (PN 210262)  
or da Vinci Xi System Overview In-service Guide (PN 1007572)
  - Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
  - Da Vinci X System Overview In-Service Guide (PN 1033885)
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**Complete da Vinci system online assessment**

Aim to demonstrate proficiency in understanding the basic functions and features of da Vinci systems, instruments, and accessories

Learners take an assessment using cumulative knowledge derived from the study of online training videos and procedural videos and the applications in the da Vinci System Overview In-Service Training

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)

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**Complete da Vinci skills simulator exercises**

Aim to demonstrate proficiency in da Vinci surgery skills at the Surgeon Console

Learners use the da Vinci Skills Simulator to help build proficiency in da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery skills at the Surgeon Console including EndoWrist manipulation, camera control, clutching, dissection, energy control, and needle control

Create a SimNow® Link Account for users with access to SimNow

Establish target performance scores for each exercise and progressively increase over the course of training phases (e.g., 80%, 85%, and 90% scores for Phase I, II, III, respectively)

If SimNow is available, encourage fellow to create a Link profile to track performance through their online dashboard. A set of recommended exercises can be recommended [a sample set provided within Skills Tracker (PN1024649)]

Lead educators are encouraged to register to SimNow Link and request an administrator role. As an administrator, lead educators can assign training curricula, track user performance, and see the number of completed attempts.

Self-guided; time varies based on time needed to achieve 80%, 85%, 90% scores for Phase I, II, III respectively

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Simulator administrator training sets (da Vinci Xi and da Vinci Si systems)
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Create a SimNow Link Account (PN 1049549)
- SimNow One Page Leave Behind (PN 1047821)
- Da Vinci Simulation Exercises PN1055397

The da Vinci simulation exercises document compares the different simulation exercises that are available on the da Vinci Si and da Vinci Xi simulators, and the new SimNow portfolio. Trainees may select exercises corresponding to the following system skill categories:

- EndoWrist manipulation
- Camera control
- Clutching
- Energy control
- Needle driving
- Dissection
- Suture knot tying

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### **Complete da Vinci Skills Drills practicum**

The da Vinci Skills Drills training is designed for trainees seeking skill refinement and additional system skills practice. This is an opportunity to engage in purposeful and specific practice to help gain confidence and efficiency.

Examples of when they may be scheduled:

- annual refreshers between academic years
- prior to the start of a rotation offering access to a da Vinci surgical system
- for general deliberate practice

Learners complete hands-on core exercises involving port placement, patient cart setup, instrument insertion, EndoWrist manipulation, and suturing

Two, two-hour sessions:

Session 1: Attending physician facilitates the session to review core concepts covered during the Phase 1 in-service activity

Session 2: Learners are assessed / demonstrate proficiency in the core exercises with minimal instruction by the attending physician (sample checklist included in PN 873872)

Resources

- Da Vinci Surgeon Skills Drills Practicum & Setup Guide (PN 873872)
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Da Vinci Si System Overview In-service Guide (PN 210262)  
or da Vinci Xi System Overview In-service Guide (PN 1007572)
- Da Vinci X System Overview In-service Guide (1033885)

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### **Complete da Vinci skills simulator exercises**

Demonstrate proficiency in da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery at the surgeon console

Learners continue to frequently practice hands-on exercises on the skills simulator

Establish target performance scores for each exercise and progressively increase over the course of training phases (e.g., 80%, 85%, and 90% scores for Phase I, II, III, respectively)

Self-guided; time varies based on time needed to achieve 80%, 85%, 90% scores for Phase I, II, III respectively

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Simulator administrator training sets (da Vinci Xi and da Vinci Si systems)
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Create a SimNow Link Account (PN 1049549)
- Da Vinci Simulation Exercises PN1055397

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**Complete da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery case observations**

Help learners become more familiar with the use of da Vinci systems, instruments, and accessories, and surgical best practices

Learners are encouraged to observe da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery procedures relevant to their surgical specialties or program curriculum

Procedure cards and brochures are also available for select procedures, which provide information on the set-up, steps, and instruments and accessories used

Time varies based on procedure; self-guided

Resources

- Da Vinci surgery procedure cards and brochures
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)

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### **Complete da Vinci online advanced instrument course and assessment**

Identify terminology, functions, and safety features of advanced instrument and accessories

Learners complete online system-specific advanced instrument courses and assessments relevant to their procedures including the da Vinci Xi stapler, SureForm staplers, intra-operative motion, Suction Irrigator, Vessel Sealer

Time varies based on course; self-guided; learners receive a certificate of completion upon passing assessment

Online training videos for the appropriate platform are available by logging into the da Vinci Online Community and accessing Intuitive Learning under the Training Tab

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
  - Training Guide: Intuitive Learning (PN 1051726)
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### **Complete da Vinci Skills Drills practicum, suturing topics**

Helps learners build proficiency in suturing techniques with the use of the da Vinci surgical system

Learners engage in practice of the two-handed suturing technique, the one-handed technique, and the running suture

One, 1-hour session; one, 1.5-hour session; self-guided or guided by an experienced surgeon or lead educator

Resources

- Da Vinci Surgeon Skills Drills Practicum & Setup Guide (PN 873872)
  - Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
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### **Complete da Vinci skills simulator exercises (additional practice)**

Learners continue to frequently practice the hands-on exercises using the Skills Simulator

Establish target performance scores for each exercise and progressively increase over the course of training phases (e.g., 80%, 85%, and 90% scores for Phase I, II, III, respectively)

Self-guided; time varies based on time needed to achieve 80%, 85%, 90% scores for Phase I, II, III, respectively

Additionally, procedure simulation exercises are available for the following specialties: gynecology, urology, general surgery, thoracic, and colorectal surgery. Specific exercises can be found within the document titled Da Vinci Simulation Exercises.

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Simulator administrator training sets (da Vinci Xi and da Vinci Si systems)
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Da Vinci Simulation Exercises PN1055397



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**Perform da Vinci robotic-assisted procedures in primary role of bedside assistant**

Aim to demonstrate proficiency in the surgical role of bedside assistant during a case with the da Vinci surgical system

Learners assist in procedures relevant to their surgical specialties or program curriculum

Learners can log all of their da Vinci robotic-assisted cases to the da Vinci Case Tracker in the da Vinci Surgery Online Community (Log-in > Click User Name > Click My Cases)

10 procedures are recommended for the training equivalency certificate

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Da Vinci Case Tracker One Pager (PN 1055395)

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**Participation in cases**  
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**Perform da Vinci robotic-assisted procedures in primary role of console surgeon**

Aim to demonstrate proficiency in the surgical role of console surgeon during a case with the da Vinci system

Learners perform procedures relevant to their surgical specialties or program curriculum in the role of console surgeon

20 procedures are recommended for the training equivalency certificate

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
  - Da Vinci Case Tracker One Pager (PN 1055395)
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**Perform da Vinci robotic-assisted procedures in primary role of bedside assistant**

Aim to demonstrate proficiency in the surgical role of bedside assistant during use of a da Vinci system

Learners continue to assist in da Vinci procedures relevant to their surgical specialties or program curriculum

10 procedures are recommended for the training equivalency certificate

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
  - Da Vinci Case Tracker One Pager (PN 1055395)
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**Solicit a letter of verification of da Vinci System training and procedures completed**

Verify participation in training and procedures completed

Learners sign and submit the da Vinci Skills Activity Tracker for Residents & Fellows to the chief of surgery or residency/fellowship program director who can attest to their completion of training and procedures

Self-guided; upon completion of training and surgical procedures performed with the da Vinci system

Resources

- Data Sheet, da Vinci Residency & Fellowship Training Equivalency Certificate Requirements (PN 210352)
- Resident & Fellow Training Equivalency Letter template (PN 210354)
- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)

To request a certificate, a copy of the case logs, or an online training certificate and letter of verification, contact [Equivalency.Training@intusurg.com](mailto:Equivalency.Training@intusurg.com).

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**Resources**  
**To support a learner's**  
**transition to practice**

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**The following are resources designed to assist residents and fellows while transitioning to practice.**

Da Vinci Job Board connects residents and fellows with prospective employers who offer da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery. Learners can showcase their experience, search for the latest job openings, and connect with hiring managers.

Learners can access the Job Board by logging into the da Vinci Online Community and clicking Community → Job Board

Resources

- Da Vinci Skills Tracker for Residents & Fellows (PN 1024649)
- Job Board One-Pager for Job Seekers (PN 1042784)

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**A guide for graduating residents and fellows**

This resource was designed to provide graduating fellows with a sample of topics to consider when researching prospective da Vinci robotic-assisted surgery programs that fit their individual needs.

A helpful checklist covers topics such as program background, advanced technology, da Vinci system access, and continued education support that are important in selecting a program that matches the needs of the resident/fellow.

Resources

- A Guide for Graduating Residents and Fellows (PN 1034479)
- Job Board One-Pager for Job Seekers (PN 1042784)

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## Important safety information

### Important safety information

For Important Safety Information, indications for use, risks, full cautions and warnings, please refer to [www.intuitive.com/safety](http://www.intuitive.com/safety).

### Limitations of training & proctoring

Nothing in Intuitive's training curricula makes expressed or implied promises or commitments to the persons attending. This includes any promise or commitment that the trainee will be provided any specific product or technology in future or that the trainee will be certified to perform a procedure related to the curriculum.

Some of the training described in Intuitive Surgical promotions may be provided by organizations or entities other than Intuitive.

Surgeon proctors are independent contractors. The prices listed for proctoring are for services rendered by the independent surgeon proctors. A list of surgeon proctors can be provided upon request. Intuitive does not take responsibility for proctoring services provided by independent surgeon proctors. The hospital/surgeon purchases the proctoring service as part of training they have independently determined to be part of their credentialing requirement; Intuitive's role is merely to coordinate between the hospital/surgeon and the proctor. The proctors and the hospital/surgeon are always free to negotiate with each other directly.

Training provided by Intuitive Surgical is limited to the use of the da Vinci Surgical System, instruments and accessories. It does not replace the necessary medical training and experience required to perform surgery. The da Vinci surgical system should only be used by surgeons and staff who have received specific training in the use of the da Vinci surgical system. Prior to using any training materials, refer to the da Vinci Online Community to ensure you are using the most up to date revision.

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