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Finding the right program for you: A guide for graduating fellows

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

Program background

Does the hospital have a da Vinci surgical system?

If so, how many and what types of systems are in place (e.g., da Vinci Xi®, da Vinci Si®, da Vinci SP®)?

Is there an existing robotics program within your specialty?

Which procedures are allowed to be performed with da Vinci surgical systems at the hospital?

How many robotic procedures are performed annually by specialty?

Try to understand what the institution collects in terms of robotic-assisted surgery data, and how that data can help in your journey.

Da Vinci team

Is there an active Robotics Steering Committee that meets regularly to manage areas such as:

- Managing privileging and credentialing requirements for robotic surgeons and their teams?

- Establishing a shared vision, devoting resources, and monitoring progress?

- Setting critical goals for the program?

Is there dedicated operative team personnel in place (e.g., surgical techs, circulating nurses, bedside assists, etc.) to support da Vinci cases?

How does the team maintain efficiency and technical proficiency?

Da Vinci system credentialing/ privileging

How often are da Vinci system access privilege meetings held to minimize the transition time between the start date and the first da Vinci case performed?

Is proctoring required for incoming surgeons with training to operate the da Vinci surgical system?

- If so, how many cases are needed in order to operate independently?

- Can cases completed during your fellowship count toward this total?

- Does the hospital or surgeon pay for any required proctoring?

- When can one apply for da Vinci system block time?

Da Vinci system access

Consider how block time is structured. How much time per day/week/month would be allotted for you to consistently conduct da Vinci cases?

Understand how surgeons are allotted equal block time, or are there certain conditions or considerations that contribute to more/less time?

Understand how often block time scheduling is revised to provide more time as patient volume increases.

Consider how block time is released for surgeons who do not use the alloted time.

Understand how many cases can be performed during day/night/weekends. How do you address ad-on cases?

Technology

Below is technology that may be core to your procedural area:

SynchroSeal	EndoWrist Stapler 45
Da Vinci Vessel Sealer Extend	Endoscope Plus
Force Bipolar	Da Vinci Handheld Camera
E-100 Generator	Firefly® Fluorescence Imaging
SureForm® Stapler 45	Da Vinci Xi® Integrated Table Motion
SureForm Stapler 60	Iris
EndoWrist Stapler 30	Ion

Note: Not all technology is applicable to all systems

Learning technology

SimNow®

Intuitive Telepresence

Intuitive Hub

Dual Console

Continued education support

Consider if a da Vinci Skills Simulator is available to provide an opportunity to practice with Surgeon Console controls.

Understand which types of continuing education resources are available to support the continued development of robotic system skills (e.g., CME, attending advanced courses at Intuitive, attending robotics conferences).

Understand if there is a standardized training pathway to support new personnel with the most current and relevant training materials.

Highlight your da Vinci experience

Consider having the following materials available to support your da Vinci training and operative experience:

- Training certificates of completion from the institution, from surgical societies, or training equivalency certificates from Intuitive;

- Letters from program directors attesting to da Vinci Surgery training and case experience; preference cards outlining the da Vinci instruments and accessories needed to support each respective da Vinci procedure.

- Documented hands-on training sessions (in-services with Intuitive team, SimNow training exercises completed, frequencies, and benchmarks) completed in residency and/or fellowship.

- My Intuitive App data including case reports, console times, case mix, and instrument use.

Searching for da Vinci program employers?

Please contact your local da Vinci Representative if you have any questions. You can also contact our Academic Team at Academic.Programs@intusurg.com if you're interested in learning about employers seeking to hire for da Vinci programs.

Intuitive does not vet candidates and is not involved in any part of the hiring process.

This resource is provided only as a courtesy to hospitals, practices, and surgeons. Information in posted openings is the sole responsibility of the hiring organization.

Important safety information
For Important Safety Information, indications for use, risks, full cautions and warnings, please refer to www.davincisurgery.com/safety and www.intuitivesurgical.com/safety.

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