**Supplementary material 3**

Surgical competency assessment of nurse-surgeons (stratified by surgical specialty)

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| **Gastroenterology** | | **Ophthalmology** | | **Vascular** | | **Obstetrics and Gynaecology** | | **General** | |
| **Surgical procedures** | **Required number of procedures to attain surgical competence** | **Surgical procedures** | **Required number of procedures to attain surgical competence** | **Surgical procedures** | **Required number of procedures to attain surgical competence** | **Surgical procedures** | **Required number of procedures to attain surgical competence** | **Surgical procedures** | **Required number of procedures to attain surgical competence** |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy, colonoscopy, polypectomy, oesophageal banding, sclerotherapy (Cash et al., 1999, United States) | 25 | intravitreal therapy (Gallagher, 2017, United Kingdom) | Not stated | sapheno-femoral disconnection, long saphenous vein stripping, avulsions, and wound closure (Hickey et al., 2009, United Kingdom) | Not stated | caesarean section, supracervical hysterectomy for ruptured uterus, dilatation, and curettage, symphysiotomy, suction extraction and episiotomy (White et al., 1987, Congo) | Not stated | laparotomy and hernia repair (White et al., 1987, Congo) | Not stated |
| upper and lower lower gastrointestinal endoscopy (Chapman et al., 2009, United Kingdom) | Not stated | intravitreal therapy (Hasan et al., 2020, United Kingdom) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (DiSario et al., 1993, United States) | 20 |
| colonoscopies to the terminal ileum, snare polypectomies, biopsy and tattooing, flexible sigmoidoscopy, and carbon dioxide insufflation of the bowel (Duncan et al., 2017, Australia) | 100 |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Duthie et al., 1998, United Kingdom) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Goodfellow et al., 2003, United Kingdom) | 35 |
| colonoscopy and polypectomy (Hui et al., 2015, Hong Kong) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Maule, 1994, United States) | 35 |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy and clinical coloproctology (Moshakis et al., 1996, United Kingdom) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Redwood et al., 2009, United States) | 25 |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy, superficial biopsies (Rosevelt et al., 1984, United States) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Shum et al., 2010, Hong Kong) | Not stated |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy and biopsies (Spiegel, 1995, United States) | 50 |
| flexible sigmoidoscopy (Wright, 2000, United States) | 10 to 104 |