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# <u>S</u>M St. Maarten Medical Center MC





**General Surgeons Office** For Students



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### **The General Surgeon**

The general surgeon is a doctor who has specialized knowledge and skill relating to the diagnosis, pre-operative, operative and post-operative management of surgical problems.

There is one fulltime general surgeon working in the St. Maarten Medical Center, Dr. F. Holiday. He works together with a visiting general surgeon.

Patients are referred by their general practitioner, or from the operating room to the general surgeon.

He sees patients in his clinic exclusively with appointments. This depends on the operation schedule., at these times the general surgeon works in the operating theatre with the operating room staff.

# What does a General Surgeon do?

- Operations: Besides scheduled operations, the doctor can also be called for unplanned (emergency) operations.
- Follow-up Care: Patients come in for follow-up care after operation and/or after admission on the ward.



- Wound management: Patients come in for wound management which includes diabetic sores, pressure sores, surgery wounds and care after amputation and burn wounds.
- Advice and referral for further treatment which is not available on the island.

## The Surgeon is Specialized in:

- Alimentary tract: esophagus, stomach, small bowel, large bowel.
- Abdomen and its contents gallbladder, liver, pancreas, spleen.
- Breast, skin and soft tissue benign and malignant diseases.
- Head and neck including trauma, vascular, congenital and cancerous disorders.
- Endocrine: thyroid and parathyroid glands.
- Surgical Oncology : including coordinated management of the cancer patients.
- Comprehensive management of trauma: the responsibility for all phases of care of the injured patient.

## The Nurse assisting the General Surgeon

Every surgeon has one nurse assigned to the office. The nurse takes care of a patient friendly and clean environment.

The nurse also:

- Assists wheelchair bound patients with administrative and other preparation before the patient sees the surgeon.
- Assists the patients in making preparation for the planned operation and explain to the patient where to go for preoperative screening.
- Works in close cooperation with the doctor, in assisting in wound care management and other specialized care.
- Takes care of the administration in the office.
- Makes follow-up appointments and does the filing of patient files.

