Management of critically sick, general surgical patients can be challenging. Doctors must assess the patient in a timely manner to decide on the most likely diagnosis to offer them prompt treatment to save lives. Initial choice of treatment can be crucial in the management of critically ill patients. There are a wide range of investigations available to help doctors reach the correct diagnosis, however there are pros and cons and risks with each test offered and it can be difficult to decide on which investigation is the best one for your patient at that time. There is no one correct way to manage a sick general surgical patient. However, consequence of making a wrong choice may cost patient's life.

The project objective was to produce an interactive learning platform to allow students to manage a critically sick e-patient to enhance student's deeper learning. We chose three important classical emergency surgical scenarios: acutely painful leg, acute abdominal pain and gastrointestinal bleeding. Students are given an emergency case history and then are given choices on different investigations and management steps. With each choice, they will find out the consequence of their action on their e-patient's condition with explanation, as well as pros and cons of their choice with reference to guidelines or evidence. We have included clinical images and video to improve their understanding of different special investigations available, which they may not get a chance to see during their surgical attachment.

Exposure to the variety of emergency surgical conditions during their General Surgical attachment is unpredictable and may be limited depending on the case mix availability. This interactive learning platform on three classical emergency scenarios will be accessible by final year medical student to use on-line via blackboard on any platform, 24/7. We hope this will augment their learning experience in Surgery and enhance their understanding and promote higher order learning.