

## OPERATING ROOM NURSE

DISTINGUISHING FEATURES OF THE CLASS: Under supervision of a Head Nurse, incumbents are responsible for planning, coordinating, managing and implementing patient care activities supportive of the Medical and Surgical patient care plans. The Operating Room Nurse performs perioperative nursing care and may act as scrub nurse or circulating nurse requiring thorough knowledge of instruments and apparatus used in all types of surgical procedures, the ability to work as a member of a surgical team, and familiarity with standard medical and nursing regimens and operating room procedures, including the safe and appropriate use of surgical instruments and equipment. Work schedules are subject to shift assignments. Supervision may be exercised over a small number of nurses aides or technical support staff as assigned. Does related work as required.

### EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Illustrative only)

Circulating nurse functions:

Provides instruments, supplies and equipment for procedures;

Assists in positioning, responding to both comfort and safety needs of patient;

Provides for accurate care and handling of specimens;

Observes and enforces strict standards of asepsis;

Facilitates the performance of the operative procedure through alert observation and recognition of patient needs;

Accurately records information relating to operative procedure.

Scrub nurse functions:

Assists during the surgical procedure by anticipating and providing the necessary sterile instruments and materials as needed.

Performs comprehensive perioperative patient assessments and implements and evaluates nursing care accordingly;

Administers prescribed medical and nursing regimen to provide comprehensive nursing care to patients;

Delegates components of nursing regimen to be carried out by nursing support personnel;

Records and reports patients' responses and collaborates with appropriate members of the health team;

Utilizes appropriate resources to assist in carrying out nursing process;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd.)

Confers with patient and family, when indicated, in the overall planning of nursing care;

Participates in discharge planning in collaboration with other health care providers and community resources, where appropriate;

Participates in defining, maintaining and interpreting standards of practice;

Participates in Quality Assurance activities;

SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE:

Participates in maintaining intra and inter-departmental systems that provide for effective functioning of operative areas;

Participates in the supervision and evaluation of professional and non-professional staff performance;

Assists in the implementation of nursing policies and procedures and interprets them to staff;

Participates in making adjustments for changes in inpatient census and classification;

Utilizes appropriate channels of communication;

Advocates the Patient Bill of Rights.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT:

Maintains professional competence through participation in inservice education and continuing education programs;

Acts as preceptor for new nursing staff assigned to unit;

Participates in peer review;

Implements and participates in staff development activities and staff conferences.

If assigned to the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, performs the following additional duties:

Performs initial identification and baseline assessment of patients including blood pressure, heart rate, interpretation of EKG, quality of peripheral pulses with appropriate documentation;

Ensures or obtains venous access for possible administration of emergency medications;

EXAMPLES OF WORK: (Cont'd)

Manages the integration of patient into computerized hemodynamic and EKG monitoring system which collect, record and analyze pertinent cardiac data;

Selects personnel being cross-trained in cardiothoracic surgical techniques in order to facilitate back-up for angioplasty procedures;

Inventories drugs, sterile supplies, respiratory equipment, various pumps and wide range of technological and angiographic equipment specific for each procedure.

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES AND ATTRIBUTES: Thorough knowledge of medical asepsis as it applies to the operating room; good knowledge of operative procedures; good knowledge of surgical instrumentation; good knowledge of application of current nursing techniques and procedures; working knowledge of the New York State Health Department and JCAHO accreditation requirements; ability to assist in the coordination, supervision and implementation of standards of nursing practice on a specific nursing unit; ability to set priorities; ability to work as a member of surgical team; initiative; sound professional judgment; thoroughness; professional competence; physical condition commensurate with the duties of the position.

MINIMUM ACCEPTABLE TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE: Possession of a valid license and current registration, issued by the New York State Department of Education, as a Registered Professional Nurse.