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Scrub Nurse Role



Key Responsibilities



- + The scrub nurse is responsible for ensuring the operating room is clean and ready to set-up prior to surgery.
- + The scrub nurse will perform a surgical scrub prior to surgery and will put on sterile garments – gown, gloves and face mask.
- + During surgery, the scrub nurse's primary duties are selecting and passing instruments to the surgeon, while also maintaining patient safety.

Key Tasks – Prior to Surgery



- + Carry out a full surgical scrub for the first case (waterless scrubs may be used for subsequent cases)
- + Set up the sterile trolley
- + Become familiar with the instruments required for the surgery
- + Count all instruments, sponges and tools with the circulating nurse



Mobile surgical unit

Key Tasks – During Surgery



- + Select and pass instruments to the surgeon
- + Maintain patient safety
- + Maintain nurse's personal safety (i.e. handling of needles correctly)
- + Maintain the sterile field



Dental surgery

Key Tasks – Post Surgery



- + Count all instruments, sponges and tools with circulating nurse and sign the count sheet
- + Dispose of sharps appropriately
- + Carry out gross decontamination of instruments – put in ultrasonic bath
- + Check trolley for instruments before disposing of rubbish
- + Sort rubbish into appropriate bags and remove from theatre
- + Wipe trolley – top and bottom
- + Prepare for next case