

Chapter 3K

Specialty Nursing Competencies – Perioperative (Theatre)



Nursing Competency Workbook, 10th Edition

The Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) Nursing Competency Workbook is a dynamic document that will provide you with direction and assist you in your professional development as a nurse working at the RCH. The workbook also provides a record of your orientation and competency obtainment.

Chapter 1

Includes resources for nurses and is complemented by the Royal Children's Hospital (RCH) New Starter Pack, Hospital Orientation and Nursing Orientation day, to provide an introduction to nursing at the RCH.

Chapter 2

Generic Nursing Competency Assessment Forms

Chapter 3

Specialty Nursing Competency Assessment Forms

Appendix 1

Unit / Department Nursing Orientation

All chapters and appendices are downloadable as pdfs from the Nursing Education Website.

The RCH Nursing Competency Workbook developed by Nursing Education with input from specialist nurses at the RCH.

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Circulating Nurse Role

Competency Statement:

The nurse effectively performs as a circulating nurse in the operating theatre

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Consent, Manual Handling, Patient Identification, and Procedural Safety Checks;

RCH Intranet: Division of Surgery - Sterile Equipment 8211 Final Surgical Check, Events related sterility, Aseptic technique Perioperative Unit

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the role of the Circulating Nurse 2. Discuss the ACORN Standards for the role of Circulating Nurse 3. Describe the surgical procedure 4. Discuss any potential complications of the procedure and what equipment to have available 5. Discuss the Circulating Nurse's role in verification and tracking of instrumentation and equipment used within the sterile field (TDOC is completed) 6. Discuss the use of the pass through cupboard <p>Setting up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. State what sterility assessments should be undertaken before opening equipment or consumables to give to the instrument nurse <p>Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Explain what the surgical huddle is and when should this occur 9. Explain what "event sterility" is and how this is carried out in the theatre environment <p>Intra-Operative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 10. Explain the recommended distance away from the sterile field when presenting sterile supplies and instruments to the sterile field 11. State why no waste and linen bags should be removed from the theatre until the final count is complete and correct 12. Describe the role of the circulating nurse at the completion of the procedure
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Consult the surgeon preference card in EMR to set up for the procedure 2. Prepare equipment, instruments and supplies for surgical case 3. Consult the surgeon and/or experienced nurses on equipment and instruments required if unsure 4. Demonstrate accurate documentation in EMR using the C.O.W (computer on Wheels) <p>Setting Up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Ensure instruments, equipment and supplies are at hand, in good working condition and ready for use 6. Demonstrate how to setup a theatre for a procedure ensuring all surfaces, floor and operating lights are clean and free of dust and fluids 7. Select correct trolley for procedure 8. Demonstrate correct placement of sterile bundles and supplies 9. Check sterility indicators and integrity before opening and internal indicators before using sterile items. Discard items that do not comply with standards and takes correct measures in the event of contamination 10. Demonstrate correct technique when opening sterile items eg steri-peel and instrument trays <p>Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. Participate and document the surgical huddle in EMR 12. Initiates the time out using the checklist in EMR and the surgical consent <p>Intra-Operative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. Demonstrate correct movement around sterile fields 14. Confirm liquid type, strength and date of expiry before pouring into the correct bowls from a discrete distance 15. Accurately documents the surgical count on the "Intra Operative Record Sheet, MR17A" ensuring form is complete and accurate 16. Demonstrate documentation of the surgical count in EMR using the C.O.W 17. Demonstrate the correct connection of surgical equipment (eg: diathermy, camera, light lead, head lights, air tools, etc) 18. Demonstrate the safe transfer a patient from a trolley to the operating table 19. Accurately documents actions and interventions as they occur on the EMR patient records 20. Document and perform the "Sign Out" procedure in EMR 21. Demonstrate the verification of documentation in EMR 22. Demonstrate sending for the next patient both by paging and recording in EMR

Nurse Declaration on next page

I have demonstrated the necessary knowledge, skills, abilities and attributes to be deemed competent in this competency. I acknowledge that ongoing development and maintenance of competency is my responsibility and will be evidenced in my Professional Practice Portfolio.

please indicate if there is written feedback or reflections related to this competency in the designated section of the workbook

Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Assessor Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

Instrument Nurse's Role

Competency Statement:

The nurse safely and effectively performs the role of the Instrument Nurse

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Aseptic Techniques, Sharps Handling;

RCH Intranet – Division of Surgery – Checking process for surgical implants, Incorrect Surgical Count, Sterile equipment 8211 final surgical check, Events related sterility, Aseptic technique Perioperative Unit

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<p>Preparation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Locate and read <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. The ACORN standards of the role of the Instrument Nurse b. Peri-Operative Attire c. Counting of Accountable items used during surgery d. The Surgical Count Policy 2. Discuss the ACORN Standards of an Instrument Nurse 3. Describe the surgical procedure 4. Discuss any potential complications of the procedure and what equipment to have available <p>Setting up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Describe sterile field 6. Describe the principles for setting up a trolley <p>Intra-Operative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. State the location of countable items during the operation
S	<p>Preparation</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prepare equipment, instruments and supplies for surgical case 2. Asks for assistance and instruction from experienced staff members 3. Demonstrate the care and handling of instruments and equipment <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sharps management b. Fluids c. Identifying the logical lay out of instruments d. Passing the surgical instruments <p>Communication</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Participates in the surgical huddle and/or timeout and/or signout <p>Setting up</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Ensure instruments, equipment and supplies are at hand, in good working condition and are ready for use 6. Check internal sterility indicators before starting to set up trolley and before using sterile items. 7. Discards items that do not comply with standards and takes appropriate measures in the event of contamination 8. Demonstrate draping trolley / trolleys in a manner that ensures integrity of the sterile field 9. Demonstrate maintenance of sterility at all times 10. Ensure fluids and wet supplies are only contained in the correct receptacles 11. Demonstrate correct set up of a trolley 12. Demonstrate containment of all sharps in the appropriate receptacles and handled in a safe manner 13. Demonstrate the correct labelling of medications and fluids on the sterile field <p>Intra-Operative</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 14. Demonstrate efficient and safe delivery of surgical instruments and items to surgeon or assistant 15. Anticipate and select the instrument required 16. Demonstrate correct loading of <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Prep stick ie Raytec or prep ball b. Swab on stick c. Peanut swab d. Clip applicator e. Blade f. suture 17. Demonstrate maintenance of the sterile field (cleaning instrumentation as required) and ensuring items remain sterile and can be immediately located 18. Demonstrate the correct movement around the sterile field 19. Initiate the surgical count ensuring preparation for application of dressings are attended to 20. Demonstrate correct sharps and waste disposal 21. Demonstrate correct removal of gown and gloves 22. Demonstrate accurate completion of the Intra-Operative record MR17A and in EMR 23. Demonstration the verification of documentation in EMR 24. Participate in the safe movement of the unconscious patient onto trolley on the completion of the procedure.

Nurse Declaration on next page

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Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Peri-Operative Attire

Competency Statement:

The nurse wears the correct attire when entering the Peri-Operative area

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the hospital policy and ACORN standard on Peri-Operative attire2. Discuss why finger nails are to be kept short, clean and free of nail polish and artificial nails3. Discuss when a surgical mask is required to be worn4. Discuss when shoe covers are required5. Discuss appropriate perioperative attire for restricted, semi restricted and non-restricted areas of the perioperative environment6. Discuss the wearing of jewellery in the perioperative environment
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the wearing of correct Peri-Operative attire2. Cover hair with theatre hat3. Demonstrate the correct wearing of protective eye wear and surgical mask4. Demonstrate adherence to hand hygiene principles including the use of hand gel

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Peri-Operative Nursing Principles of Care

Competency Statement:

The nurse demonstrates adherence to Peri-Operative nursing principles of care to achieve optimal patient outcomes

RCH references related to this competency: RCH Policies & Procedures: Blood transfusion, Consent

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the rationale for a quiet environment during patient induction2. Explain the strategies to prevent hypothermia3. Discuss potential complications of incorrect positioning4. State patient considerations when using a diathermy such as cochlear implant, metal, skin integrity5. Discuss precautions when positioning/moving an unconscious patient's limb6. Explain the observations for blood loss and actions to be taken when loss is excessive.7. Discuss blood storage and retrieval processes8. Discuss precautions for a patient with a latex allergy9. Discuss where to find the patients allergy status in EMR
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prioritises identified health needs using a problem solving and critical thinking approach2. Demonstrates collaboration with team members to ensure pre-operative care and orders have been completed3. Demonstrate releasing an intraoperative order in the patients charts in EMR4. Demonstrate maintenance of respect and dignity of the peri-operative patient5. Demonstrate correct measures taken to manage a patient with an allergy6. Demonstrate correct positioning and pressure area care of the patient7. Demonstrate documentation of positioning and pressure area care in EMR8. Demonstrate application of the principles of standard precautions9. Demonstrates adherence to the principles of asepsis10. Demonstrate correct placement and checking of the diathermy plate and site and documentation in EMR11. Demonstrate correct use of the diathermy machine and equipment including foot pedals

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Procedural Safety Checklist

Competency Statement:

The nurse participates in the surgical safety checklists to ensure patient safety and prevent adverse events.

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Procedural Safety-Correct Patient, Correct Procedure, Correct site.

RCH Intranet – Division of Surgery - Local Procedure: Surgical Site Marking

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Describe the purpose of performing a procedural safety check called the Time Out prior to the commencement of any surgery/procedure 2. List the members of the team that participate in the Time Out 3. Discuss why and how surgical sites should be marked, if the surgery involves repositioning of the patient/limb explain how the site marking should be done 4. Describe the exceptions for marking the operative sites 5. What is the intraop orders for Theatre and where is it located in EMR 6. Explain why imaging displayed should be confirmed as matching the patient identity 7. State where the presence of implants is documented in EMR 8. Outline the process for an incorrect consent 9. Discuss the policy for intraoperative photography 10. What does the statement "is hand over to bed-card unit" mean
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Confirm the presence of Day of Surgery Consent is complete in EMR 2. Confirm the presence of the printed surgical consent and check for correctness 3. Demonstrate and document in EMR a Time Out procedure 4. Demonstrate and document in EMR a Sign Out procedure 5. Demonstrate verify of these checklists

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Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Management of Sharps in the Perioperative Environment

Competency Statement:

The nurse demonstrates safe work practices while handling sharp instruments and needles

RCH references related to this competency: RCH Policies & Procedures: Sharps Handling

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Outline the procedure following a sharps injury, including immediate first aid management and reporting2. Describe why double gloving is preferable when performing the role of instrument nurse3. Discuss the available equipment used for the correct storage of sharps in the sterile field
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate correct loading and unloading of blade onto scalpel handle2. Demonstrate safe loading and unloading of atraumatic sutures onto a needle holder3. Correctly assemble and pass a hypodermic needle and syringe and a scalpel blade4. Show correct handling of sharps when passing to surgeon/proceduralist5. Show correct storage of sharps on instrument trolley when not being used by surgeon/proceduralist6. Demonstrate safe disposal of sharps7. Correctly return any sharp instruments for reprocessing to CSSD

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Prepping and draping

Competency Statement:

The nurse demonstrate best practice with regard to prepping and draping the patient for surgery

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Antiseptic and Disinfectant Usage

RCH Intranet – Division of Surgery - Local Procedure: Surgical site marking, Aseptic technique Perioperative Unit

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<p>Prepping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the use of iodine based preparations on babies & infants 2. Discuss skin integrity and hair removal 3. Explain drying time and vapour dissipation in regards to fire risks & skin burns 4. Discuss care of skin post-surgery 5. Explain the process for reporting of an adverse skin reaction to prep solution <p>Draping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Discuss the different types of drapes, identifying the disposable and reusable types 2. Describe different types of devices available for fixation of drapes and which drapes they can be used on 3. Explain parameters for draping the incision site including implications for site marking and prepping 4. Discuss sterile field limitations 5. Discuss procedures where draping is not a requirement
S	<p>Prepping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate allergy check and contraindications prior to commencing the preparation of the skin 2. Demonstrate surgical skin preparation adhering to the principles of incision site and clean/dirty areas 3. Utilise aseptic technique during skin preparation 4. Record prep solutions in EMR including post op skin assessment ie skin reactions <p>Draping</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Assemble appropriate type of drapes for the procedure <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Disposable drapes 2. Assist surgeon/proceduralist for draping utilising aseptic technique

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TDOC

Competency Statement:

The nurse utilises the CSSD tracking system to monitor the use and processing of sterile instrumentation

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Define TDoc and its functionality2. Explain the TDoc production cycle of a reusable instrument/tray3. Discuss the information contained on the TDoc Unit label (adhesive label attached to outside of product)4. Discuss the importance of the scanning the TDoc item and implications for patients5. Discuss why instruments require to be TDoc before the case and again at the end of the case6. Discuss the turn around time for red disc items7. Discuss the turn around time for the blue disc items
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Utilise the TDoc scanner to dispatch instruments/trays from CSSD2. Show recording of TDoc unit label (on the instrument checklist)3. Demonstrate TDoc scanning of items to a patient at the beginning of the case and again at the end4. Remove a unit from a patient5. Return an unused item to CSSD6. Demonstrate use of TDoc for Red request for processing of instrument/tray, what is the turn-around time?7. Demonstrate use of TDoc for Blue request for processing of instrument/tray, what is the turnaround time?

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Theatre Environment

Competency Statement:

The nurse is able to prepare and maintain the operating theatre for surgery

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Emergency Resuscitation Assistance Call for the Periop area

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Explain the activation of emergency in the perioperative area. Including location and use of emergency buzzers and duress buttons Discuss when & how to activate a MET2. State the location of the MET trolley for the perioperative area3. Identify the location of the malignant hyperthermia kit4. Discuss temperature requirements for children
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Position and activate operating theatre lights2. Show the operation and adjustment of the room temperature control3. Demonstrate checking, connection & changing of suction4. Demonstrate how to apply, inflate & deflate pneumatic tourniquet and documentation in EMR5. Demonstrate the AV system in conjunction with microscopes, coned towers, PACS screens6. Demonstrate how to position and reposition the theatre pendants

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Specimen Collection Intra Operatively

Competency Statement:

The nurse safely and effectively collects specimen's Intra Operatively

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Policies & Procedures: Specimen Collection

RCH Intranet – Division of Surgery Local Procedure: Specimen identification, Collection and handling

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Describe handling and storage of specimens:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Freshb. Frozenc. Formalin2. Discuss the process for delivering:<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Fresh Specimensb. Specimen in formalin3. Discuss the use of orders and worklists for generating a specimen request4. Discuss the use of pneumatic tube for specimens,5. State specimens / items that can be transported in the pneumatic tube6. State specimens / items that <i>cannot</i> be transported in the pneumatic tube
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Determine whether the tissue is a specimen2. Confirm the type of specimen3. Demonstrate how to receive a specimen from the surgical field, utilising universal precautions and according to RCH policy and procedures4. Demonstrate handing of specimen to the circulating nurse5. Demonstrate receiving of specimen from the instrument nurse or surgeon6. Demonstrate the correct specimen labelling requirements, including printing specimen labels and requisition form through EMR7. Correctly documents specimens collected in the Operating room in EMR8. Demonstrate the use of the pneumatic tube system<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. Opening of transfer capsuleb. Insertion of contentsc. Closing and locking of capsuled. Entering of destination number on keypad and pressing entere. Insertion of the capsule into the send chamber and checking it has been accepted

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Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Surgical Count

Competency Statement:

The nurse safely and effectively participates in counting of accountable items

RCH references related to this competency:

RCH Intranet: Division of Surgery – local procedures: Surgical Count, Incorrect Count, Pharyngeal packs, Progressive count away technique

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss the hospital policy and ACORN standard on the surgical count2. Describe the correct procedure for initial and subsequent counts3. Discuss the process for any discrepancy in the count4. Outline the procedure for the 'count away' of accountable items during a procedure5. State the procedure when adding a throat pack to the count
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Identify an accountable item2. Demonstrate correct counting technique for accountable items3. Demonstrate correct use of the instrument tray list4. Demonstrate correct documentation for additional items added onto the sterile field5. Demonstrate the correct documentation of the count on the Intra-Operative Record MR17A6. Demonstrate the process for a change over count where the scrub nurse is relieved or where the circulating nurse is permanently relieved7. Demonstrate a closure count8. Document final count is correct in EMR

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Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Surgical Scrub, Gowning and Gloving

Competency Statement:

The nurse effectively completes a surgical scrub and dons the correct surgical gown and gloves

RCH references related to this competency: Aseptic Technique

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Discuss;<ol style="list-style-type: none">a. The rationale for the surgical scrubb. The expected outcomes of the surgical scrubc. The procedure for surgical scrub as per ACORN standards2. Explain the use of Skinman waterless surgical rub3. List the types of surgical gowns available for use4. Explain the rationale for double gloving5. Discuss assessing gown pack for sterility6. Discuss the reason for turning the surgical gown7. State which areas of the gown are considered sterile
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the correct preparation prior to the surgical scrub including standard precautions2. Select approved antiseptic scrub solution3. Perform a surgical scrub procedure according to the ACORN standards and guidelines<ol style="list-style-type: none">a) First scrub of the dayb) Subsequent scrubs4. Demonstrate drying hands and arms5. Demonstrate donning a surgical gown6. Demonstrate donning of sterile gloves by using closed gloving technique 7. Demonstrate how to turn the surgical gown with the circulating nurse8. Demonstrate how to turn the surgical gown with a member of the scrub team 9. Demonstrate changing of sterile gloves following contamination10. Remove gown and gloves and discard appropriately at completion of case11. Demonstrate use of Skinman waterless surgical rub for subsequent cases

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Checking Process for Surgical Implants

Competency Statement:

The nurse identifies potential implants required for surgery during Time-out and performs the necessary checks to deliver the implant to the surgical team aseptically.

RCH references related to this competency: RCH Intranet: Division of Surgery – local procedures: Checking Process for Surgical Implants

COMPETENCY ELEMENTS	
K	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Locate and read the local procedure for checking surgical implants2. How many staff need to visually check an item and what parameters are they checking for3. Discuss the surgeon/proceduralist role in checking an implant4. Discuss environmental indicators in regards to storage of implants5. Explain the documentation required for the speciality AUM for ordering of prosthesis ('party packs')
S	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Demonstrate the checking of a surgical implant2. Demonstrate aseptic technique when opening and delivering an implant to the scrub team3. Complete EMR documentation for recording of the implant to patient4. Complete the paper ordering process for implants

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Nurse Name: _____ Signature: _____ Date: _____

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Competency Feedback & Reflection

This section is used to document constructive feedback relating to specific elements of any competency from assessors, and also provides space to document reflection on your own practice (either in direct relation to the feedback, or separately).

Competency Name:			
Element(s):			
Assessor Feedback:			
Self-Reflection:			
Assessor [sign and date]		Nurse [sign and date]	

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