

Operating Room Nurse – job description and areas of responsibility:

1. Qualification requirements for Operating Room Nurses include:

:

- a. Nursing registration in Norway.
- b. Master's degree/postgraduate education in operating room nursing. The master degree program requirement includes The National Framework Plan, regulated by the Ministry of Education and Research in 2005.

2. The role of the OR- Nurse in the organisation entails:

- a. Professional nurse responsibilities in relation to the clinical profession reporting directly to the line manager.
- b. A nursing management role appropriate to the job description and area of responsibility.
- c. As the superior auxiliary personnel of the operating room care team in the workplace. They can delegate specific tasks to other personnel where appropriate given the nature of the task, the qualifications of the person to whom the task is delegated, and the follow-up given. Nursing assistants act under the direction and authority of the operating room nurse (Act on Health Care Personnel, Section 5).

3. The professional framework includes:

- a. Providing perioperative care to acutely- and critically ill patients of all ages and in all stages of life, and ensures that patients receive professional treatment according to the NSF's code of professional ethics and ethical guidelines, the ICN's code of ethics for nurses, the Act on Patient Rights, the Act relating to Health Care Personnel, and the Act on the Specialist Health Service.
- b. At all times acting according to applicable laws, regulations and guidelines/procedures applying to the health service in general, and in particular to the institution/nursing services.
- c. Complying with central legislation (the Infection Control Act, the Working Environment Act) and local guidelines for infection control measures.
- d. Following applicable requirements for ongoing continuing professional development and competent use of medical/technical equipment (Regulation on medical equipment).

4. Job description and areas of responsibility:

The OR Nurse shall practice individualised, professional nursing founded on evidence-based practice, which addresses quality control and patient safety. The OR Nurse shall promote health, prevent illness and injury, ease suffering, provide treatment and perform rehabilitation and environmentally-therapeutic measures (cf. NSF's aims, principle programme, regulations for the period 2012–2015).

The candidate will have advanced knowledge of:

- Human physiology and function, and the patient's disease processes (anatomy, physiology and pathology), reactions and needs from an age-, gender-, and multicultural perspective.
- Infection prevention regarding patients, equipment and rooms.
- The utilisation and maintenance of surgical and medical technical equipment.



- Addressing the basic needs of the surgical patient during surgery.

4.1 Therapeutic Responsibilities:

Therapeutic Responsibility is patient oriented care that involves preventive, therapeutic, palliative and rehabilitative nursing (Yrkesetiske retningslinjer, 2016).

Therapeutic Responsibility includes:

- Obtaining information about the patient, to ensure individualised and planned treatment.
- Considering patients individual care needs. This includes respect for his/her experiences, his/her integrity and self-worth, irrespective of ethnicity, religion and social status.
- Assessment and evaluation of the patient's care needs, evaluating problems, risks and resources. Moreover, prioritise and initiate necessary and relevant measures in order to ensure patient-focused care.
- Observing the perioperative patient's condition making sure necessary assessment, prioritisation, evaluation, and associated perioperative nursing interventions are implemented.
- Providing professional, perioperative care according to the profession's traditions, ethical principles and health legislation. Moreover ensuring respect for the patient's – and his/her relatives' integrity, resources and experiences of acute / critically illness.
- Safeguarding the patient by preventing further injury and suffering beyond that resulting from the treatment/examination, e.g. in relation to:
 - proper positioning to prevent pressure-, traction-, and nerve injuries.
 - taking infection control measures in relation to the patient, staff and equipment.
 - preventing hypothermia.
 - undertaking proper checking and handling of instruments, swabs, and equipment.
- Performing in the role of the Scrub nurse and circulatory duties in surgical procedures or investigations.
- Participating as part of the multidisciplinary team in patient treatment and within the surgical team, alongside nursing management and the department's other staff, to ensure a proper, professional patient course of care.
- Ensuring continuity in nursing care of the patient by documenting perioperative nursing care performed. The documentation shall include all relevant and necessary measures (Act on Health Care Personnel, Sections 39 and 40) and shall follow relevant systems and guidelines for documentation in the workplace.
- Guiding patients and relatives according to their needs.
- Upholding requirements for confidentiality and information according to the Act on Health Care Personnel, chapter 5.

4.2 Educational responsibility includes making sure:

- a. Educational principles such as providing information and counselling of patients and their relatives, based on individual care-needs.
- b. Educational principles such as providing information, education and supervision are ensured in context of evaluating staff, new staff/locum staff in professional practice (professional accountability).



- c. Master's degree nurses/registered nurses undertaking the post-graduate perioperative care programme, nursing students and other students are being supervised and evaluated and receiving appropriate training.

4.3 Administrative Responsibilities includes:

Responsibilities for planning and organising surgical activity.

- a. Professional leadership in perioperative nursing-care. Moreover contributing to good cooperation and communication within the team.
- b. Contribution to implementation of "Safe Surgery" to ensure patient safety.
- c. Organising and delegating tasks within the appropriate area of responsibility, suitable to the individual staff member's qualifications (professional accountability).
- d. Delegating tasks to other team members, appropriate to their qualifications. (Act on Health Care Personnel, Section 5).
- e. Being loyal to the primary goals and strategies within the framework of professional-ethical guidelines and applicable legislation.
- f. Responsibility for the appropriate use of resources by preventing unnecessary loss of time or expense (Act on Health Care Personnel, Section 6).
- g. Cooperation with the organisation's other professional disciplines to ensure quality and continuity to patientcare.
- h. Contribution to good cooperation within and between departments.
- i. Ensure contribution towards maintaining health and safety through a good working environment for staff.
- j.

4.4 Professional Development and Research Responsibilities includes:

- a. Taking responsibility for remaining professionally updated through continual professional development and education, thereby ensuring evidence-based practice.
- b. Demonstration of commitment and competency in adapting and maintaining developments within the field of perioperative nursing. Moreover, ensuring patients care needs are provided.
- c. Ensuring critical thinking and analytical approach towards one's own practice.
- d. Ensuring contribution to creativity and innovation in clinical practice of perioperative nursing. Furthermore, ensuring an analytical and critical approach and the use of various sources of information to structure and formulate professional decision-making.
- e. Contribution to the development of the operating room nursing profession on an international level.

References:

The Norwegian Working Environment Act (2005). Act 2005-06-17 no. 62 relating to the working environment, working hours and employment, etc. (the Working Environment Act). Regulations on internal control in health and social services (Forskrift om internkontroll i sosial- og helsetjenesten). Regulation 2002-12-20 no. 1731: Regulation on the requirement for a Master's degree (Forskrift om krav til mastergrad.) (2005). The Norwegian Ministry of Education and Research.
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Act on Health Care Personnel, etc. (1999). Act 1999-07-02 no. 64:

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NSF. (2019). Professional-ethical guidelines for nurses. Oslo: Norwegian Nurses
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Act on Patient and User Rights. (1999) Act on Patient and User Rights:

Framework plan or further education in theatre nursing (2005), Ministry of Education and
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Communicable Diseases Act. (1994) Act relating to protection against infectious diseases.
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Regulations and laws are taken from www.lovdato.no

