

Essential role of operating room nurses

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Abstract

Nursing is the backbone of the health center. The operation room is a specialized area where nursing officers provide quality care to patients prior to, during, and after surgery. Operation room nurses must have good physical, mental, and communication, and the errors made by the staff will directly affect patient care. Operating nursing officers should have specific skills to handle the situation in the operation room. The operating nurse should be able to work as a team member, have excellent communication skills, efficient detail and problem solving, be highly organized, and have critical thinking.

Keywords: Scrub nurse, communication skill, critical thinking, teamwork, and team briefing

Introduction

Nursing is the backbone of the health center. The operation room is a specialized area where nursing officers provide quality care to patients prior to, during, and after surgery. Complete perioperative care. An operating nurse must have specific skills that help during the surgical procedure and should have knowledge and abilities like another registered nurse.

Operation room nurses must have good physical, mental, and communication, and the errors made by the staff will directly affect patient care. They should attend specialized training and update their knowledge from effective sources for the best service. In the operation room, teamwork is better than a single approach that will improve the quality and reduce the time delay. Each nursing officer should know their role and responsibilities in the operation room. Specialized skills to manage costly things will lessen the financial burden and be hazardless.

Operating nursing officer

Operating nursing officers should have specific skills to handle the situation in the operation room. The operating nurse should be able to work as a team member, have excellent communication skills, efficient detail and problem solving, be highly organized, and have critical thinking.

The operating nurse in charge is responsible for the management and organization of patient care. Operation room nurses in charge are accountable for providing nursing duties and assignments, proper coordination of OT schedules, and checking the supply and demand of medications and supplies.

Responsibility of operation room nursing in charge

1. Assign the duties of the scrub and circulating nurse

for smooth conducting of the surgical schedule: We should assign the task according to the skills of the scrub nurse. The assigned scrub nurse should have knowledge regarding the case and instruments which were used in the case. The assigned scrub nurse should count the instruments after preparing the trolley and ensure everything is available according to the CSSD checklist. If anything is missing, the scrub nurse should report and record it immediately to in charge. After taking the patient in OT, the circulatory nurse should ensure whether they have taken the correct patient with the help of an identification band and ask the patient's name to conform once again. The circulatory should ensure they have been given the right positions before surgery.

2. **Daily running of the operation room:** As per the assignment, check the room is fit for scheduled surgery. The fit of schedule surgery means checking the things available in OT required in surgery like suction, energy devices like cautery machine, vessel sealer, and laparoscopy cart (for laparoscopy surgery). Check all equipment is working before surgery. If they are not working, it would be the scrub nurse's responsibility to inform the in charge of the biomedical department to check the equipment and change with another machine. It helps to reduce the delay of surgery. Check the OT inventory.

3. **Assessing the requirements of CSSD supplies, equipment, and articles:** After checking the OT inventory list scrub nurse ensure that all equipment and surgical attire is available as per the surgery. All instruments should be checked (an indicator of sterilization). If any wet or contamination in the tool should be noticed by the CSSD staff before using it.

Please maintain a record while giving and receiving instruments from CSSS and confirm that no miss management happened. The nursing officer should immediately inform the CSSD staff of any damage or compliance regarding the mechanisms and ensure the change has occurred.

4. **Planning of surgery as per the OT schedule:** Team briefing is an integral part of the surgery. In team briefing, a scrub nurse, circulating nurse, anesthetist, and surgeon are involved. All team members discuss the patient and surgery. It allows asking the surgeon questions about surgery and the care plan. All team members distributed work according to patient needs. For example, scrub nurses prepare all instruments according to surgery, circulate nurse document records, and provide necessary items. An anesthetist is the team leader of the operation room. Role allocation help to smooth the functioning of OT, and this reduces the doing same task in an emergency.
5. **Communicate effectively to the nursing personnel to ensure that all information is received:** Effective communication includes a visible, audible, and focused message. Communication mainly has both verbal and nonverbal types. Good communication in the operative environment is required to achieve quality treatment and patient safety ^[1]. Effective communication is an essential element of teamwork. To recognition of potential hazards and reduce surgical complications, good qualitative and quantitative communication is necessary, for that preoperative meeting will help. To raise any concern, good collaborative decision-making surgical check would benefit and will reduce the delay and complication of surgery ^[2].
6. **Checking of weekly/ monthly ordering of stock:** It is necessary to check all required item is available in OT. Inventory should be done for each staff according to their allocation and should inform OIC if anything missing or damaged items are found. If there is any shortage of things or damaged items, the higher authorities and surgeons should be informed before surgery to avoid delays and complications of surgery. Notification should be forwarded to the concerned department to refill the things before finishing the stock. If any damaged or faulty paper is received from the store, immediately inform the department according to the hospital protocol. Operation room inventory should be kept in multiple locations and regularly checked. The main problem regarding inventory management is the inventory cost, and the required service level means the availability of supplies that each surgeon expect to receive. This leads to a problem between inventory staff who are attempting to lower inventory costs and surgeons who require everything on hand. More than that, many hospitals lack a standardized protocol to manage materials like surgical supplies and instruments, and it is highly affecting the surgeon's performance.
7. **Coordinating with anesthetics and surgeon in the operation room regarding operating schedule and equipment orders:** One of the nursing officer's primary responsibilities is to coordinate with the anesthetic team and surgeon regarding the operation

schedule and equipment availability to reduce the complication of surgery and delay of operating time ^[3]. The nursing officer should check the patient's file regarding preoperative management and consent for surgery before shifting to the operation room for extra clothes, jewelers, dentures, etc.; if anything is noticed, manage it properly; otherwise, informs the concerned doctor. The nursing officer should confirm the availability of equipment and instruments needed for the surgery; any failure will lead to a delay in surgery. Any loss regarding the points mentioned above should be addressed by OIC to the surgical team.

8. **Evaluation of the performance of nursing officers in OT:** The performance of nursing officers in OT should be evaluated by OIC periodically for improvement and better staff performance. In-service classes should be conducted regularly, and assessments should be done. It is essential to ensure that all staff working in operation room have good physical and mental health ^[4]. Nursing staff should attend classes regarding the handling of instruments, proper handling during surgery, and connection and detachment of equipment like energy devices, lap instruments, lenses, and cautery pencils to avoid hazards to the patient and surgical team ^[5]. It should be confirmed that the assigned staff should have basic knowledge of the surgery and maintain good communication skills with other surgical team members.
9. **Informing the nursing superintendent of any changes or problems in the operation room:** If any problems that could not be managed by nursing officers or OIC should be informed to the nursing superintendent immediately to avoid further complications regarding the matter and should control the problem as soon as possible with the coordination of concerned department staff ^[6]. Maintaining a register regarding the issues and periodical discussion is necessary to minimize the problems. For this, the weekly or monthly meeting should be conducted, and all departmental representatives should participate without failure, discuss the matters, make a solution and implement it immediately.

Conclusion

The operation room nurse is responsible for verifying adequate supplies and equipment and forming the circulating nurse of any requirements. Operation room is an integral part of the hospital, where all surgeries and major procedures are conducted under anesthesia. So, active and efficient management is essential to the smooth running of the operation room. Moreover, it is teamwork, and the nursing staff has vital involvement in the operation room. So, updating, active participation, good communication skill, and special training should require for each nursing officer. All of these produce good quality care to the patient before and after surgery.

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