Purpose/Goal

The operating room is a special environment within a health care facility, where surgical procedures are performed on patients to diagnose and treat disease or injury. Because the operating room is a highly restricted area that is subject to many laws, regulations, and professional guidelines, it is critical for health care industry representatives to understand how to work in and around the operating room environment. This online continuing education activity will provide you with the information you need to successfully and safely fulfill your responsibilities in the operating room, while protecting the safety and rights of patients, staff, and yourself. Following the suggestions in this program will also assist you in being accepted as an asset to patients and staff as you give technical support for your product.

Objectives of the AORN OR Protocol I
- Identify 2 things you can do to minimize the risk of infection in the intraoperative environment.
- Select appropriate surgical attire for specific areas of the operating room suite.
- Apply the principles of aseptic practices to specific OR scenarios.
- List 3 aspects of environmental control commonly found in the OR.
- Using traffic flow scenarios, identify appropriate movement around the sterile field in an operating room.
- Identify 3 types of hazards found in the operating room.
- Identify steps to take if you are involved in a blood borne exposure incident.
- Identify the roles that the HCIR might assume in the OR.
- Identify mechanisms the HCIR can use to ensure the smooth introduction of products, equipment, or instrumentation in the operating room.

Intended Audience

The course, “AORN Operating Room Protocol,” has been developed by AORN, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, to help all health care industry representatives become comfortable in the operating room environment to safely and successfully perform their responsibilities as an HCIR. The content in this program is applicable to all practice arenas; including the acute care hospital setting, interventional radiology, as well as, the ambulatory setting and office based operating rooms.

Course Outline

1. OR Introduction
   - Overview of the program
   - Review of the objectives

2. Your Model for Success in the Operating Room
   - Roles, responsibilities, and limits of an HCIR as an adjunct member of the surgical team.
   - Resource list of each organization or government office impacting your interaction with the OR environment, patient care, and other activities
   - General policies and concerns when visiting an OR
   - Review of AORN Position Statement, AdvaMed, and PhRMA
3. General Concepts in Infection Prevention
   • CDC – Surgical Site Infections
   • General concepts in infection prevention: Chain of Infection

4. Operating Room Infection Prevention
   • Operating Room Infection Prevention: Environmental Controls
     • Traffic flows
     • Appropriate surgical attire
     • OR climate
     • Humidity
     • Airflow
     • Environmental hygiene practices
   • Personnel Controls
     • Personal hygiene
     • Personal health
     • Proper surgical dress and attire
   • Equipment Controls
     • Sterile field
     • Disinfection
   • Patient Controls
     • Operating Room hazards
     • Surgical prep
     • Skin intact
     • Controlled medical condition

5. Aseptic Technique Principles
   • Sterile and non-sterile fields
   • Roles and responsibilities of team members
   • 4 areas of sterile field
   • 12 Guidelines of Aseptic Technique Principles

6. Operating Room Hazards
   • Biological Hazards: PPE
   • Chemical Hazards: Disinfectants, skin prep, etc.
   • Physical Hazards: Lifting, Radiation, Fire, Laser, Latex, Smoke Plume, etc.

7. Conclusion
   • Building effective Partnerships
   • Post-test

Content is solely developed by AORN and reflective of current Standards and Procedures.

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