

DACUM Competency Profile for Surgical Technologist

Produced For

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DACUM Competency Profile for Surgical Technologist

The Surgical Technologist is a member of the perioperative team who provides technical support during the intra-operative period through advanced planning and preparation to ensure a safe environment and quality care for the surgical patient.

Duties		Tasks			
A	Prepare For Surgical Procedures	A-1 Clarify procedure	A-2 Identify supplies and equipment needed for procedure	A-3 Identify furniture needed in room	A-4 Assemble supplies and equipment in room
		A-5 Establish sterile field	A-6 Check sterile supplies for integrity/sterility	A-7 Open sterile supplies	A-8 Perform surgical scrub
		A-9 Don sterile attire	A-10 Organize sterile setup	A-11 Perform initial sponge, needle, instrument counts	
B	Perform Intraoperative Duties/ Activities	B-1 Identify patient and procedure	B-2 Gown and glove sterile surgical team	B-3 Assist with draping patient	B-4 Assemble equipment at surgical site
		B-5 Receive drugs/solutions in sterile field	B-6 Pass instruments to surgical team	B-7 Assist with specific phases of procedure (suction, cautery, retract sponges)	B-8 Maintain organization of sterile field
		B-9 Monitor and maintain sterility	B-10 Receive and identify specimens for circulator	B-11 Perform closing sponge, needle, instrument counts	B-12 Apply surgical dressings
		B-13 Remove drapes/instruments from field			
C	Performs Room Turnover	C-1 Collect/contain waste/sharps	C-2 Reduce bioburden from instruments	C-3 Disinfect furniture/equipment	C-4 Remove/transport equipment
		C-5 Dispose of waste	C-6 Wet vacuum/mop floor	C-7 Dress the bed	C-8 Inspect for room readiness
		C-9 Restock unused supplies			

D

Assist Circulator	D-1 Procure additional supplies as needed	D-2 Assist with/transfer of patients	D-3 Assist with/provide post procedure care	D-4 Assist with placement of monitoring equipment
	D-5 Assist with positioning of patients	D-6 Assist with surgical prep.	D-7 Assist with light source placement	D-8 Transport specimens
	D-9 Pretest equipment for use as directed	D-10 Transport patients	D-11 Assist with casting	

E

Maintain Surgical Supplies/ Equipment	E-1 Wash and decontaminate instruments	E-2 Ultrasound, milk, rinse and dry instruments	E-3 Assemble instrument trays	E-4 Prepare for and operate a peracidity acid sterilizer
	E-5 Prepare for and operate ETO sterilizer	E-6 Prepare for and operate steam sterilizer	E-7 Prepare for and operate hydrogen peroxide plasma sterilizer	E-8 Prepare for/operate dry heat sterilizer
	E-9 Prepare for and operate Glutaraldehyde disinfection sterilization processor			

F

Provide Safe Environment	F-1 Practice laser precautions	F-2 Practice electrical safety	F-3 Practice radiation safety	F-4 Handle compressed gas tanks/connections
	F-5 Practice/adhere to universal precautions	F-6 Report/document unusual happenings	F-7 Remove/report defective equipment from service	F-8 Maintain room organization

G

Performs Departmental Responsibilities	G-1 Receive/participate in dept. communications	G-2 Inventory supplies	G-3 Rotate supplies	G-4 Order supplies
	G-5 Create/update surgeon preference cards	G-6 Attends inter/intra departmental committees	G-7 Maintain cleanliness of department	

H

Maintain Professional Responsibility	H-1 Maintain institutional competencies	H-2 Practice cost containment	H-3 Attend/contribute to inservice classes	H-4 Evaluate new equipment
	H-5 precept new employee/student	H-6 Participate in performance improvement activities		

Current Trends/Issues

- Advanced technology
- Aging population
- Changing/expanded roles
- Computer technology
- Cost containment
- Cross training
- Declining employee benefits
- Environmental awareness
- Health care reform
- Increased outpatient
- Managed care
- Medical/ethical issues
- Minimally Invasive procedures
- Multi drug resistant organisms
- National certification
- Opportunities for professional growth
- Robotics
- Social/health issues
- surgery

General Knowledge & Skills

- Anatomy & physiology-Physics
- Aseptic technique
- Basic math-Metric system/conversion
- Basic pharmacology
- Body mechanics
- Communication skills
- Computer skills
- CPR
- Cultural awareness
- Departmental P&P
- Electrical safety
- English
- Fire safety
- Hazardous Materials
- Infection control
- Interpersonal skills
- Listening skills
- Mechanical skills
- Medical terminology
- Microbiology
- Organizational skills
- Patient rights
- Problem solving skills
- Professional behavior
- State & Fed. regulations -OSHA
- Stress management skills
- Surgical conscience
- Teaching skills
- Universal precautions

Tools, Equipment, Supplies and Materials

- Air filtration systems
- Anesthesia machine/monitors
- Auto-transfusion devices
- Beepers
- Catheter/drains
 - Central venous
 - Chest

- Cholangiocath
- Embolectomy
- Foley
- Myringotomy
- Naso-gastric
- Penrose
- Robinson
- Stents
- T-tube
- Tubes
- Ureteral myringotomy
- Urethral
- Vascular caths
- Ventricular cath
- Wound drain
- Collection bag/devices
- Compressed gases and regulators
- Coronary bypass pump
- Crash Cart
- Cryo Units
- Defibrillator
- Doppler
- Drapes & packs
- Dressings
 - 2x2's
 - 4x4's
 - ABD
 - Bio-adhesive
 - Cast dressing
 - Eye pad
 - Gauze
 - Liquid dressings
 - Non-adhesive
 - Packing
 - Peri-pad
 - Tapes
- Drugs & solutions
 - Antibiotics
 - Anti-coagulants
 - Antiseptics
 - Disinfectants
 - Dyes
 - Hemostatic agents
 - Irrigation solutions
 - Local anesthetics
 - Radioactive materials
 - Steroids
 - Topical ointments
 - Vasodilator/constrictors
- Electro surgical units
- Gloves
- Gowns
- Hypo/hyper thermia units
- Implants
- Insufflators
- Irrigation/pumps
 - AG
 - Argon
 - Co2
 - Holmium
 - K.T.P.

- Lasers
- Lights
 - Headlights
 - Light sources
 - Spotlights
- Loupes .
- Malignant hyperthermia
- Masks
- Microscopes
- Needles
 - "free"
 - blunt
 - cutting
 - taper
 - trocar
- O.R. furniture
- Positioning equipment
- Smoke Evacuators
- Sponges
 - 4x4
 - Cottonoids
 - Dental rolls
 - Eye sponges
 - Kitner
 - Laps
 - Swabs
 - Tonsil sponges
- Sterilizers
- Suction
- Surgical Instruments
 - clamps
 - cutting
 - dissectors/elevators
 - endoscopes
 - forceps
 - graspers
 - needleholders
 - power equipment
 - probes/dialators
 - retractors
 - suction tips
- Sutures
 - Absorbable
 - Non-absorbable
 - Staples
 - Steri-strips
- Tourniquets
- Trach tube
- Ultrasound
 - C.U.S.A.
 - Emulsifier
 - Lithotriptors
- Video/cameras, recorders, printers
- X-Ray, fluoroscopy

Worker Traits & Behaviors

- Accept constructive criticism
- Assertive
- Compassionate
- Confidentiality
- Courtesy

Worker Traits & Behaviors

- Efficient
- Emotional stability
- Ethical
- Flexible
- Follow directions
- Honesty
- Intuitive
- Manual dexterity
- Organized
- Personal hygiene
- Physically fit
- Punctuality
- Receptive
- Reliable
- Respect patient privacy
- Responsible
- Sense of Humor
- Team player