Theatre Nurse Refresher

This bite size module revises the duties of both the Scrub Nurse and the Circulating Nurse. It looks at preparation, scrubbing, gowing & gloving, and then on to surgical assistance in theatre, including instrumentation and skin closure.

Learning outcomes:

- Revision of the duties of both the Scrub Nurse and the Circulating Nurse.
- Ability and confidence to assist in theatre during procedures.

Course Notes:  

Example Protocol for Preparation of Theatre

Every Morning:
- All equipment within the theatre is damp dusted using a suitable disinfectant. This includes: Anaesthetic machine, surgical table, surgical trolley, kick bucket, ceiling mounted light, drip stand, suction unit, x-ray viewer, Bair Hugger warming unit, and stool.
- Anaesthetic machine is plugged into the piped gas outlet.
- Electrocautery unit switched on.
- Beanbag placed into ‘body bag’ and placed onto table top.
- Instruments for the first operation are placed ready.

Between Patients:
- All monitoring probes & surfaces are cleaned with a suitable disinfectant.
- Remove any rubbish, (for example empty sterilisation packets, dropped swab).
- Floor cleaned if required.
- Vaporiser level checked and refilled as required.

End of Day:
- All monitoring probes and equipment are cleaned with a suitable disinfectant.
- Removal of unwanted items from theatre.
- All surfaces are cleaned with a suitable disinfectant.
- Vaporiser level checked and refilled as required.
- Floor is then hovered.
- Finally the floor is mopped with suitable disinfectant.
- Unplug/ switch off oxygen.
- Switch off lights.

The Scrubbing up Procedure

- Using surgical scrub solution wash hands and arms down to and including the elbows.
- Taking a sterile scrubbing brush, remove the finger pick and under running water run it along the underside of each nail to remove dirt and debris.
- Using the bristle side of the scrubbing brush scrub each nail for 10 strokes.
- Using the sponge side of the scrubbing brush each part of the hand should be divided into quarters and 10 strokes should be made on each quarter
- Rinse ensuring that the hands remain higher than the elbows.
- Repeat the procedure, this time including the forearms.
- Rinse hands and arms, again ensuring that the hands are kept above the elbows