**Surgical Services Surveyor Tracer Questions & Answers**

| **Questions** | **Answers** |
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| **ALWAYS REMEMBER**: If an inspector asks a question to which you cannot recall the answer, the acceptable response is:  **“I would ask my supervisor”.** | |
| How are RNs assigned to care for patient | Charge RN assigns RNs to cases in which staff have completed appropriate training & competencies. |
| How is competence assured? | All staff complete orientation upon hire and complete annual education assigned by the department & hospital educators. |
| What preoperative processes are taken to ensure patient safety and that they consent to have their procedure performed? | Patient’s signed consent is reviewed pre-operatively to ensure completion. |
| * H&P | * History & Physicals must be present on the chart before the patient enters the OR. |
| * Consent process * Blood Consent * E-Consent | * A signed consent must be present before the patient enters the OR |
| * Surgical site marking process | Site-specific answers to be entered  Example:   * Surgical site involving laterality: site should be marked with practitioner’s initials * Multiple surgical sites: sites should be initialed * Single incision site: site-marking form should indicate surgical site * Absence of surgical site (ENT, for example): site-marking form should indicate surgical site |
| How do staff know what privileges surgeon have? | Site-specific answers to be entered   * If any further question remains, the supervisor should be contacted. |
| How do you know if a patient has an advanced directive? Are DNR orders suspended during surgery? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Describe the time-out process, and how a discrepancy is handled. | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How often are policies reviewed & updated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| High-risk issues: |  |
| * Types of high-risk patients served | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What precautions are taken to reduce these risks? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * How are risks of patient injury reduced when using certain types of equipment: * **Skin breakdown during surgery:** | * Use of positioning equipment (gels, rolls, heel protectors) * Use of positioning supplies (blankets, safety straps)   Additional site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of equipment place a patient at risk; how are these risks reduced? * **Electrocautery burns:** | * Pad placement protects skin against burns   Additional Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of equipment place a patient at risk; how are these risks reduced? * **Thermoregulation** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of equipment place a patient at risk; how are these risks reduced? * **Tourniquet Safety** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of equipment place a patient at risk; how are these risks reduced? * **Lasers** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of equipment place a patient at risk; how are these risks reduced? * **Light Sources** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of medications are given in the department? * How is medication safety assured? * **Antibiotics:** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of medications are given in the department? * How is medication safety assured? * **Anesthesia agents leading to Malignant Hyperthermia** | Annual MH Training & drills ensures readiness |
| * How is medication safety assured? * **Medication storage / dispensing** * **Medication safety** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What types of medications are given in the department? * How is medication safety assured? * **Blood Administration** | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| * What dangerous chemicals are present in the department? **Mitomycin / chemotherapy agents / formalin / cleaning agents for EVS** * How can staff reference written information about the handling of these chemicals **(Safety data sheets)** * How are chemical spills handled? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| What PPE is worn, and when? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Specific situations to be reviewed: how is patient & employee safety assured?   * Malignant hyperthermia safety training and precautions | Staff are trained in handling malignant hyperthermia situations during orientation and review the process annually as part of the annual education program. |
| Specific situations to be reviewed: how is patient & employee safety assured?   * Fire * OR-specific: handling of zone valves in OR area (inside each OR room) * OR Specific: electrical panels (outside each OR room) | * RACE (Rescue, Activate, Contain, Extinguish) * PASS (Point, Aim, Squeeze, Sweep) * After OR is evacuated, RN & charge RN coordinate with anesthesia which zone valves need to be turned off. * Fire safety is instructed during orientation and reviewed annually as part of the annual education program. * Regular fire drills are held to assure readiness |
| Specific situations to be reviewed:  How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Safe equipment handling | Staff are trained in handling in handling OR equipment during orientation and review the process annually as part of the annual education program. |
| How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Code Carts | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Tissue Storage CryoTank * Tissue Storage Freezer | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Blanket and fluid warmers | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Radiation safety | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How is patient & employee safety assured?   * Needle stick / blood borne pathogen exposure | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| What are the different types of color bands for patients? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| What do you do if there is an equipment failure? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How do you report an adverse event, such as a fall or medication error? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| What is being done to prevent surgical site infections? | * Hand hygiene * Pre-operative antibiotics (if applicable) * Application of pre-incision chlorhexidine prep |
| Are anesthesia carts locked? | Anesthesia carts are locked at all times when not in use. |
| What is the process of handling sales reps, and their presence in the OR? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **Inpatient unit to OR:**   * How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **ICUs to OR:**  How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **Pre-op Unit to OR:**  How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **OR to PACU:**  How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **PACU to Inpatient Unit:**  How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Handoff: **OR to ICUs:**  How is the process of handled / communicated? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| How are ORs cleaned? How do staff know the OR is clean? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Describe the process of sending used surgical instruments to Central Sterile / Receiving. | * Upon completion of the procedure, instruments are sprayed with an enzymatic agent which prevents bioburden from adhering to the surgical instruments and sent to Decontamination. |
| Tissue Log;   * Where is it kept? * Tissue Policies? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Tissue Log;   * How is it used?   What steps are taken when the tissue is removed from storage for implantation but then not used? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Tissue Log;   * What steps are taken when the tissue is removed from storage for implantation but then not used? | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| Describe performance improvement and quality measures that are actively being measured. | Site-specific answers to be entered |
| What are some of the 2023 National Patient Safety Goals, and how do the processes support them? | 1. Identify patients correctly: use 2 identifiers 2. Improve communication: Get critical labs to correct person on-time 3. Use medicines safely: label drawn medicines (syringes, basins), perform med reconciliation when patient changes level of care 4. Use alarms safely: ensure alarms are heard and responded to. 5. Prevent infection: perform hand hygiene. 6. Identify patient safety risks: perform suicide screening 7. Prevent surgical mistakes: perform timeout before start of procedure to ensure correct patient, procedure and site is being performed. |