



European Operating Room Nurses Association

**EORNA FRAMEWORK**  
**for** \_\_\_\_\_  
**PERIOPERATIVE**  
**NURSE**  
**COMPETENCIES**

EORNA Educational committee  
[www.eorna.eu](http://www.eorna.eu)

*The whole text is downloadable on the EORNA website.*

## Core competencies domains\*

EORNA identifies the following five core key competencies for the perioperative nurse:

- Professional /ethical/legal practice
- Nursing care and perioperative nursing practice
- Interpersonal relationships and communication
- Organisational, management and leadership skills
- Education, research and professional development



### Core competencies domain 1

#### Professional /ethical /legal practice

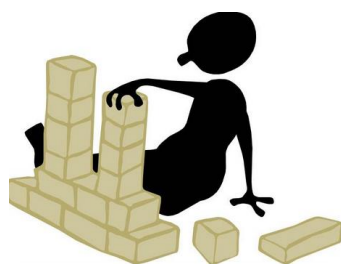
The perioperative nurse analyses, understands and makes professional clinical judgment, upholds ethical practice, and maintains respect for the patient.

- 1.1. Practices in accordance with legislation and professional guidance relevant to perioperative nurses/nursing
- 1.2. Accepts professional accountability
- 1.3. Acts as intermediary, liaison and patient advocate
- 1.4. Respects other cultures, their beliefs, customs, religion and

### Core competencies domain 2

#### Nursing care and perioperative nursing practice

The perioperative nurse provides quality nursing care by adopting a holistic and individual approach to the patient in accordance with relevant legislation, policies and guidelines.



- 2.1. Delivers patient care integrating knowledge and evidence-based practice
- 2.2. Provides a safe effective environment for the management of efficient patient care using the latest technology
- 2.3. Promotes health and safety in the workplace. Applies and initiates appropriate risk management strategies to prevent injuries
- 2.4. Incorporates and complies with the principles of Infection Control and prevention in accordance with international guidelines
- 2.5. Manages specimens (for investigation)
- 2.6. Recognises the importance of waste management strategies and promotes best practice

\* The aim of this document is to define common core competencies in perioperative nursing. This document is not exhaustive, and many other opportunities and experiences may contribute to the perioperative nurse's personal and professional development.

### Core competencies domain 3

#### Interpersonal relationships and communication

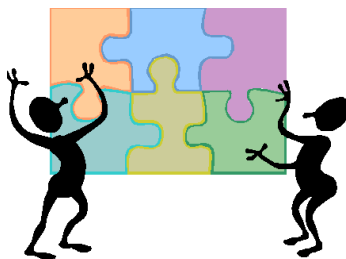


The perioperative nurse establishes an efficient communication system with the patient/family/significant others, the multidisciplinary team and other relevant collaborating departments

- 3.1. Establishes and maintains effective interpersonal relationships with patients/families/significant where appropriate
- 3.2. Recognises the essential requirements of effective teamwork to achieve desired patient care outcomes of high quality in the perioperative environment
- 3.3. Employs appropriate communication strategies (verbal and written) to ensure accurate recording and transfer of information in the best interest of patient care
- 3.4. Is able to resolve conflicts
- 3.5. Is able to effectively communicate Health Promotion

### Core competencies domain 4

#### Organisational, managerial and leadership skills



The perioperative nurse leads and manages a group of peers and other professionals, respecting the subsystem and the organisation's purposes and the results of the activity.

- 4.1. Demonstrates effective leadership skills acting as a role model, is consistent in delivery of high standards of care, is self motivated and displays effective interpersonal skills based on understanding and mutual respect
- 4.2. Audits practices to ensure quality assurance of care
- 4.3. Manages staff appropriately to ensure readiness in the delivery of care
- 4.4. Carries out the stewardship of financial resources
- 4.5. Manages medical devices for safety use
- 4.6. Employs effective organisational and management skills in the provision of quality patient care

### Core competencies domain 5

#### Education, research and professional development



The perioperative nurses pursues education and personal development in order to build their professional portfolio, to develop personally and to maintain the knowledge and skill required of a constantly evolving specialization. They conduct or help to do research on perioperative nursing.

- 5.1. Demonstrates a commitment to their own and others personal and professional development
- 5.2. Proactively seeks and provides educational opportunities for themselves and others
- 5.3. Reflects and analyses professional practice
- 5.4. Conducts/contributes/designs/participates in and/or conducts research

## Definitions:

The **Perioperative Nurse** is someone who has become an expert in one (or more) fields of Perioperative Nursing care.

**Perioperative Nursing care** is defined as nursing care delivered in the areas of preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative patient care.

**Perioperative Nursing** is a diverse and complex specialist field with many sub-specialities within it. Perioperative nursing predominantly covers the nursing care in the areas of surgical intervention, anaesthesiology and post anaesthetic care. In some instances, it also covers specialities such as ambulatory day care, endoscopy, sterilization, interventional radiology and pain management. These varied roles are a challenge to the development of a perioperative nurse's core competencies.

Qualified and experienced nursing staff working within the multidisciplinary team are expected to perform in a competent manner, displaying an awareness of current developments in research and knowledge relating to the operating department and perioperative nursing care.

## Attaining the required competency level will enable the perioperative nurse to:

1. Provide quality care, in a safe manner, in the following roles:
  - Circulating nurse
  - Assistant to the anesthetist or anesthetic nurse (in some countries)
  - Scrub nurse
  - Post anaesthetic care unit nurse
  - Surgical Assistant (in some countries)
  - Hygiene management
  - Pain management nurse
  - Endoscopy nurse
  - Day surgery nurse
2. Operate as an equal member in a multi / interprofessional team
3. Participate in quality assurance programs
4. Organise and manage an Operating Room/Department
5. Partake proactively in risk management strategies
6. Maintain own professional competence through ongoing current education and awareness of current updates in perioperative nursing with an emphasis on new technologies
7. Participate in and/or conduct research and contribute towards the development of knowledge for perioperative nurse
8. Practice in accordance with legislation and professional guidance relevant to perioperative nurses/nursing

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