

Z: Perioperative Nursing Specialty

Major Competency Area: **Z**
Perioperative Nursing Specialty

Priority: **One**
Restricted Activity Authorization

Competency: **Z-1**
HPA Authorizations and Standards

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-1-1 Demonstrate understanding of the restricted activity in the LPN Regulation 2003 (5 [b]) authorizing the perioperative nursing specialty:
“Only regulated members on the specialized practice register and who are specifically authorized by the Registrar may perform the restricted activity of cutting a body tissue, administering anything by invasive procedure on body tissue or performing surgical or other invasive procedures on body tissue below the dermis for the purposes of performing the following activities:
• performing activities under the direction of an authorized practitioner who is performing surgery.”

Health Professions Act LPN Regulation 2003

Z-1-2 Demonstrate knowledge and application of Canadian Practical Nurses Association (CPNA) approved “Standards of Practice and Competencies for Perioperative Nursing Care, 1999”.

Note: LPNs who practice the Perioperative Nursing Specialty have completed specialized education approved by CLPNA.

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Competency: **Z-2**
**Knowledge and Application of
Perioperative Nursing**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-2-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to apply critical thinking and clinical judgment in the perioperative role.

Z-2-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to practice perioperative nursing:

- role of operating room nurse
- application of nursing process
- admission, discharge and transfer of client
- asepsis and sterile techniques
- surgical procedures, protocols, and related disease processes
- medications used in pre, intra, and post-operative care
- anaesthesia methods and protocols
- client and health care team safety measures
- assist in the teaching / orientation of new staff
- ordering of supplies, equipment as appropriate
- preparing costing for surgical procedures as appropriate
- protocols important to the surgical suite
- associated legalities, policy, and procedure
- documentation and reporting.

Z-2-3 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform the disinfection process within the surgical environment such as:

- surgical theatre
- equipment and instruments.

Competency: **Z-2**

**Knowledge and Application of
Perioperative Nursing**

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-2-4 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to prepare supplies for sterilization such as:

- linens and dressings
- glassware
- rubber goods
- instruments.

Z-2-5 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to perform various methods of sterilization such as:

- steam sterilization (gravity displacement, pre-vacuum, pulsing gravity)
- chemical sterilization (ethylene oxide, aqueous gluteraldehyde, peracetic acid, gas plasma)
- dry heat sterilization.

Z-2-6 Demonstrate the knowledge and ability to safely handle and care for surgical equipment such as:

- endoscopes and instrumentation
- video equipment
- laser systems and equipment
- electrosurgical tools
- power tools.

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Competency: **Z-3**
**Knowledge and Application
of Scrub Role**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-3-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to carry out the requirements of the perioperative scrub role:

- apply strict sterile technique
- provide the surgical team with instrumentation and supplies
- anticipate the needs of the surgical team
- ensure safety and security of the client throughout the procedure.

Z-3-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform the competencies of the scrub role such as:

- perform surgical scrub procedures
- perform client safety checks
- check case cart / supplies
- ensure equipment / instrumentation is available, set up, and in good repair
- prepare client skin prior to procedure
- prepare efficient sterile set-up
- drape client for procedure
- knowledge of sequence of events of surgery
- anticipate needs of surgeon
- organize and handle sutures, needles, and staples
- manipulate and hand instruments to surgeon and assistants
- sponge, suction, and retract incision as directed
- observe for inadvertent breaks in appropriate technique
- assist with corrective action if necessary
- identify specimens to circulating personnel and type of testing required
- when possible, anticipates unexpected or adverse events and takes action
- handle and prepare medications and contrasts for administration to the client

Competency: **Z-3**

**Knowledge and Application
of Scrub Role**

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-3-2 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform the competencies of the scrub role such as: (continued)

- participate in handling and counting of instruments and supplies:
 - prior to the beginning of surgery
 - during the surgery
 - prior to closure
- ensure appropriate surgical procedure documentation is in place
- assist with skin closure and apply sterile dressing as necessary.

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Competency: **Z-4**
**Knowledge and Application
of Circulating Role**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- Z-4-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to perform circulating role in the preparation of the operating room theatre:**
- prepare the room supplies and equipment for the specific operative procedure (includes special equipment, positioning devices, sutures, case cart, warming supplies, IV solutions, physician cards)
 - notify all personnel who may be required for case i.e., pathologist, technicians
 - ensure x-rays and diagnostic tests are available if required.

- Z-4-2 Demonstrate ability to prepare client for the surgical procedure:**
- assess client using pre-operative checklist
 - transport client to the operating room
 - receive client into the operating room and carry out appropriate checks
 - assist surgeon and anaesthetist with positioning client safely on the operating room table
 - reassure client and explain procedures
 - apply monitor and equipment as required, i.e., ECG, BP, Pulse Oximetry, anesthetic equipment
 - attach client to necessary equipment, i.e., tourniquet, drainage systems
 - insert urinary catheter and set up drainage
 - prepare irrigation solutions as necessary
 - prepare operative site, according to specific surgery guidelines
 - assist with draping and connection to suction, power tools, etc.

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-4-3 Demonstrate ability to provide assistance during the operative procedure:

- prepare medication for administration to the client
- process all specimens by labeling and handling appropriately
- inspect all sterile items for contamination prior to opening
- inspect and open sterile supplies and hand to scrub personnel
- provide appropriate instruments and supplies as needed
- prepare supplies for sterilization
- document client care, specimens, sponge counts, medications used to operative site
- document blood loss, fluid output, and intake
- document any and all unusual incidents with appropriate follow up action
- monitor vital signs as appropriate
- ensure, along with a second individual, that all pre-op and closure counts are correct
- monitor sterile technique and maintain the same throughout the case
- provide continuous, astute observation of the surgical team throughout the operative phase while meeting their needs with minimal time delays
- monitor and evaluate the physical well-being of the client to prevent potential impairment or injury.

Z-4-4 Demonstrate ability to provide and assist with procedures and devices required to complete client care following the surgical procedure:

- observe and provide appropriate response to complications and unexpected events during the surgical procedure i.e., cardiac arrest, hypothermia
- assist in the physical client transfer and post-operative positioning
- affix and observe the dressing post-operatively ensuring that all drains are properly connected and secured
- complete operative record and have scrub personnel review.

Competency: **Z-4**

**Knowledge and Application
of Circulating Role**

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A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-4-5 Demonstrate ability to provide support and assistance to ensure safety and efficiency:

- advocate for client
- ensure co-ordination of days list of surgical procedures i.e., sending for patient, surgeons availability, staffing, ensuring necessary equipment available
- comply with WHMIS regulations
- apply standard precautions
- clean theatre between cases
- carry out appropriate surgical scrub procedures
- carry out safety checks, such as client identification, allergies, with circulating nurse
- check case cart and supplies for completeness
- ensure all equipment and instrumentation is in good repair and available
- trouble shoot equipment that malfunctions and seek assistance
- facilitates use of accessory surgical equipment
- recognizes an emergent situation and sends for assistance as required.

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Competency: **Z-5**
**Knowledge and Assistance
to the Anaesthetist**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

Z-5-1

Demonstrate knowledge and ability to assist anaesthetist:

- provides supplies to anaesthetist as required
- supply anaesthetic cart with clean tubing, appropriate size face mask, airway and breathing bag depending on the age and size of the client
- prepare appropriate endotracheal tubes
- assist the anaesthetist with epidural, spinal, topical, retrobulbular, local anaesthetics, and nerve block
- initiate intravenous and prepare supplies for anaesthetist
- prepare and provide drug to the anaesthetist when requested
- assist with induction of anaesthetic:
 - intubation, fixation, and connection of endotracheal tube
 - cricoid pressure if necessary
- apply necessary eye protection, i.e., tape, saline sponge, etc.
- assist with preparation related to insertion of CVP, arterial lines, blood warmers
- check blood and blood products identification with anaesthetist or RN
- assist with extubation and reversal of anaesthesia
- assist with transfer of client to “Post Anaesthetic Recovery Room”, ICU, or designated ward
- restock drugs for anaesthetic supply.

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Competency: **Z-6**
**Knowledge and Application
of Prep Room Role**

Date: September 1, 2005

A Licensed Practical Nurse will:

- Z-6-1 Demonstrate knowledge and ability to receive and monitor client in prep room or pre-surgery care as appropriate:**
- provide explanations and demonstrate a caring attitude to the client
 - provide information, materials, and support for client and family
 - check each pre-operative chart for completeness as per policy:
 - accurate, complete identification of client and chart
 - history
 - prior surgery
 - allergy check
 - hemoglobin, E.C.G., urinalysis as required
 - consult if required
 - seek verbal confirmation of the following from the client:
 - name
 - doctor
 - operative site
 - nothing per mouth
 - dentures / other prostheses / loose teeth
 - jewellery / metal protocols
 - pre-existing medical conditions / medications
 - allergies
 - provide the client with warm blankets, pillows, and other comfort measures
 - attach all necessary monitoring devices, i.e., blood pressure, oxygen, E.C.G.
 - provide O₂ when required or ordered by doctor
 - check all fluids levels i.e., IV and drainage unit
 - attach patient equipment to electrical outlet if battery supply is low
 - assist surgeons and anesthesiologists with physical examinations of client providing necessary equipment and providing privacy for client
 - assist anesthesiologist with topical, retrobulbar, local anesthetic, administration of eye medication, initiation of IV site
 - maintain knowledge of crash cart, defibrillator, and code criteria.

