Surgical Technologist/Scrub Tech

Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of knowledge in the area of the Surgical Technologist/Scrub Tech. Exam content measures job knowledge that is applicable to Certified and Non-Certified Surgical Technologist.

Knowledge Domains
Surgical Technologist/Scrub Tech Exam

- Administrative & Personnel: 17%
- Anatomy & Physiology: 29%
- Equipment & Sterilization: 10%
- Intraoperative Care: 9%
- Microbiology: 16%
- Postoperative Care: 3%
- Preoperative Care: 14%
- Surgical Pharmacology: 2%

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I. Administrative & Personnel
   A. Knowledge of infection control practices, aseptic technique, and surgical conscience.

II. Anatomy & Physiology
   A. Knowledge of all body systems, both anatomically and physiologically, as they relate to a surgical procedure.
   B. Knowledge of commonly used medical abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms.

I. Equipment & Sterilization
   A. Knowledge of activities done in post-operative period, including but not limited to proper procedure for cleaning operating room, disposal of contaminated waste/sharps, and preparing instruments for decontamination and sterilization.
   B. Knowledge of multiple pieces of equipment, supplies, and surgical instruments, including but limited to, video towers/booms, argon beam coagulators, suction, sutures, staples, retractors, scalpels, oxygen, sponges, operating table/bed, surgical drapes, lights, tourniquet.
   C. Knowledge of infection control practices, aseptic technique, and surgical conscience.
   D. Knowledge of sterile supplies and instruments for use during surgery, including checking package integrity and opening packages with aseptic technique.
   E. Knowledge of assisting physician in surgical site/wound closure, appropriate dressings.

I. Intraoperative Care
   A. Knowledge of infection control practices.
B. Knowledge of appropriately labeled medications and their use as applied in specific surgical procedures; methods of fluid replacement commonly used in surgery.

C. Knowledge of common surgical procedures in which the certified scrub technologist may assist a surgeon.

D. Knowledge of multiple pieces of equipment, supplies, and surgical instruments.

E. Knowledge of supplies used in suturing and stapling tissue, including but not limited to type of needles.

F. Perform appropriate actions during emergencies.

G. Knowledge of different positions used for different surgical procedures.

H. Knowledge of proper tissue handling.

I. Knowledge in the implementation of standard precautions, aseptic technique, and using surgical conscience.

J. Ability to assist surgeon and other team members with multiple pieces of equipment, supplies, and surgical instruments.

K. Ability to recognize signs of adverse side effects of medication administration and fluid replacement including malignant hyperthermia, hypertension, tachycardia, etc.

L. Knowledge of appropriate skin preparation, including hair removal and surgical scrub, for patient prior to surgery.

M. Knowledge of commonly used medical abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms.

II. Microbiology

A. Knowledge of infection control practices, aseptic technique, and surgical conscience.
B. Knowledge of common surgical procedures in which the certified scrub technologist may assist a surgeon.

C. Knowledge of commonly used medical abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms.

III. Postoperative Care

A. Knowledge of multiple pieces of equipment, supplies, and surgical instruments.

B. Knowledge of common surgical procedures in which the certified scrub technologist may assist a surgeon.

C. Knowledge of preparing and labeling of tissue specimens obtained during surgery.

D. Apply necessary equipment to patient as indicated before, during, and after surgery.

IV. Preoperative Care

A. Knowledge of required documentation for patient chart prior to beginning surgical procedure.

B. Knowledge of performing surgical hand scrub, gloving, and gowning.

C. Knowledge of different positions used for different surgical procedures.

D. Knowledge of commonly used medical abbreviations, terminology, and acronyms.

E. Knowledge of common surgical procedures in which the certified scrub technologist may assist a surgeon.

F. Knowledge of sterile supplies and instruments for use during surgery, including checking package integrity and opening packages with aseptic technique.
G. Knowledge of appropriate skin preparation for patient prior to surgery.

H. Knowledge of surgeon preference card(s).

V. Surgical Pharmacology
   A. Knowledge of medications and solutions used at the sterile field.
   B. Knowledge of action of medications commonly administered preoperatively.
   C. Knowledge of appropriately labeled medications and their use as applied in specific surgical procedures.
   D. Knowledge of verifying, preparing, mixing, labeling, and calculating medications and solutions used at the sterile field.