



PRACTICAL EDUCATION
FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSES

SURGICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING

Surgicalassist

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Laparoscopic Surgical Assisting Workshop

Practical education for perioperative nurses beginning, developing or refreshing their laparoscopic assisting skills. Teaching connects relevant anatomy with the operations and equipment participants encounter in their own theatres.

What participants will explore

Camera and instrument skills — Safe handling of cameras, instruments and angled telescopes; camera control and image orientation.

Anatomy and surgical principles — Abdominal and pelvic anatomy, positioning, and principles of laparoscopic access and port placement.

Tissue handling and haemostasis — Gentle tissue handling, retraction and exposure, and the assistant's role in supporting haemostasis.

Scope of practice — Accountability, direction and delegation, with discussion of the assistant's responsibilities within the surgical team.

Risk and team response — Equipment troubleshooting, safe electrosurgery principles, and responses to complications and emergencies, including conversion to open surgery.

Ergonomics and teamwork — Manual dexterity, efficient movement, communication and critical thinking to anticipate operative needs.

Format and practical learning

Hospital-based delivery for 6–8 participants, led by Claire Wiseman, RNFSA, with a co-facilitator. Approximately 6 hours of teaching and guided practice, with timing agreed with the host hospital. The workshop can be tailored to the hospital's surgical specialties, learning priorities and participants' experience, while retaining the core programme content.

Hands-on stations use laparoscopic trainers and familiar hospital telescopes, cameras and instruments, with opportunities for feedback and repeated practice. No animal tissue is used.

Learning resources

A pre-workshop laparoscopic workbook supports anatomical understanding and preparation. Participants receive a Competency Development Record for ongoing supervised development and a certificate of completion. The 10 education hours include workshop attendance and workbook learning.

The workshop supports education and supervised skill development. It does not independently credential participants or replace local policy, clinical supervision or employer authorisation.

Contact Claire for the full information pack and workshop planning

surgicalassistsat@gmail.com | +64 21 519 444

surgicalassist.co.nz