



PRACTICAL EDUCATION
FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSES

SURGICAL ASSISTANT TRAINING

Surgicalassist

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

Open Surgical Assisting Workshop

Practical education for perioperative nurses who assist during open surgery, including those new to the role and experienced assistants refreshing their skills. Content relates to participants' surgical specialties and everyday theatre practice.

What participants will explore

Practical assisting skills — Instrument and tissue handling, retraction, exposure and support with haemostasis. Guided exercises develop dexterity in both hands, for example, left-handed suture cutting.

Anatomy and surgical principles — Relevant anatomy and tissue planes, surgical terminology, and how the assistant supports each stage of an operation.

Risk and team response — Recognising concerns, responding to complications and emergencies, and communicating within the surgical team.

Safe, sustainable practice — Scope of practice, accountability and delegation, together with sterility, situational awareness and ergonomics.

Benefits

Builds confidence in the assisting role, develops practical skills and encourages effective communication and anticipation of the surgeon's needs.

Format and practical learning

Hospital-based delivery for up to 10 participants, taught personally by Claire Wiseman, RNFSA. The workshop combines discussion, demonstration and guided practical exercises.

Pork tissue is used for practical skills exercises. Equipment, facilities and arrangements for these activities are agreed with the host hospital beforehand.

Learning resources

An anatomy workbook tailored to the participant's surgical specialty, supporting preparation and ongoing learning. Practical activities provide opportunities for questions, repetition and individual feedback.

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

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