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Area Surgical Services  
and  
Perianesthesia  
Applicability MultiCare Yakima  
Memorial  
Hospital  
Tags POLICY

## Learners in the Operating Room

### Regulatory Source(s):

CMS

Other: Click here to enter text.

### Regulatory Citation Number(s):

482.51(b)

### PURPOSE:

To provide safe surgical care for the patient while providing an interactive learning environment for all types of learners in the Operating Room (OR). Learners may include medical students, residents, anesthesia students, PA students, paramedic students, dental students, nursing students and scrub tech students.

### SCOPE:

All Workforce

### Points of Emphasis:

- Patient safety is the top priority in Multicare Yakima Memorial Surgical Services.

- Learners are encouraged to attend surgeries to expand their knowledge base.
- Learners only perform skills at the level allowed/determined by their practice.
- The number of learners in each case is limited in order to maintain control of the environment and assure sterility by all parties in the OR.
- It is imperative that learners are identified before the surgery case begins in order for the Circulator to understand everyone's role in the surgical procedure.

## POLICY:

1. Student learners and residents planning to attend a case check in with the OR Charge Nurse, or if after hours with the OR Circulator, in charge of the case.
2. The student identifies themselves and their planned role while in the case. For example, 3<sup>rd</sup> year resident – Plan to close at the end of the case or Yakima Valley College Nursing Student – Observation only.
3. For learners not affiliated with the surgeon, the OR Charge Nurse or the OR Circulator should verify with the surgeon that it is OK for the learner to observe the case as well as ask permission of the patient.
4. Any medical student or resident (not affiliated with the surgeon) performing a procedure, must have permission from the surgeon as well as the patient. For example, an anesthesia student intubating a patient.
5. **Medical students and residents giving care have a surgeon in attendance in the surgical room during the case at all times, even at the end of the case.**
6. The number of learners per case is limited to one of each entity. For example: 1 resident, 1 medical student, and 1 RN student.
7. Only 3 learners total are allowed in a case at a given time.
8. The RN Circulator, Charge Nurse or designee may at any time request a learner to be excused from a case. This would be done on a case by case basis. For example: Too many learners for a complicated case; When additional OR staff is needed; When space is limited; or for any another reason deemed necessary.
9. Learners do not open packages onto the field without the consent of the circulator. It is imperative to keep accurate counts of items placed on the surgical field.
10. New medical students who are assigned to a preceptor that has surgical privileges at Multicare Yakima Memorial:
  - a. Will be contacted by the Student Experience Specialist with a date and time to complete their surgery orientation in the surgical services department.
  - b. Medical students report to the Main OR office on the date/time scheduled and check in with the OR Charge Nurse
  - c. The OR Charge Nurse will direct the medical students on what is required to complete their surgery orientation. This orientation takes approximately 30-60 minutes to review proper communication with the coordinator, hand washing, scrubbing, gowning, gloving and going over expectations in the surgical suite.
  - d. Following completion of the surgery orientation, students will return any required

paperwork to the Student Experience Specialist to receive their photo ID badge.

11. New medical students and residents to the Labor & Delivery Operating Room (LDOR) should make an appointment with an OB/Surgical Technician prior to the first day of attending a surgery. This meeting takes about 30-60 minutes to go over expectations in the surgical suite and to review proper communication with the OR crew, sterile technique, proper hand washing, scrubbing, gowning, and gloving.
12. Residents who are new to Multicare Yakima Memorial:
  - a. Will be contacted by the Provider Onboarding Department to schedule an introduction/orientation to the Surgical Services areas.
13. Medical students and/or Residents who have not met with one of the Specialists noted above must contact the Student Experience Specialist or the Provider Onboarding Department to make an appointment prior to OR experience.

## DEFINITIONS:

## REFERENCES:

(Note: Regulatory references should only be listed above)

## KEYWORD Indexes:

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### Approval Signatures

Step Description	Approver	Date
Council/Committee Approval	Seth Solberg: Quality Data Abstractor RHIT	04/2025
Policy Coordinator	Seth Solberg: Quality Data Abstractor RHIT	04/2025
	Christy Alexander-rines: Nurse Mgr	04/2025

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### Applicability

MultiCare Yakima Memorial Hospital

### Standards

No standards are associated with this document

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