

# Operating Theatre Protocols and Procedures

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### 1. Pre-Operative Phase

- Patient Identification: Verify patient identity, surgical site, and procedure.
- Surgical Team Briefing: Discuss roles, responsibilities, and potential risks.
- Preparing the Operating Room: Ensure all necessary equipment, instruments, and supplies are available and functional.
- Patient Preparation: Administer anesthesia, position patient correctly, and ensure sterile draping.

### 2. Intra-Operative Phase

- Hand Hygiene: All team members should perform hand hygiene before and after patient contact.
- Sterile Attire: Wear appropriate surgical attire (scrubs, caps, masks, gloves) to maintain a sterile environment.
- Surgical Site Preparation: Clean and disinfect the surgical site before incision.
- Instrument Sterilization: Use only sterilized instruments and equipment during the procedure.

### 3. Surgical Procedure

- Time-Out Procedure: Pause before incision to confirm patient, procedure, and site.
- Aseptic Technique: Maintain a sterile field throughout the surgery to prevent infections.
- Communication: Clear and concise communication among team members is crucial for patient safety.
- Adherence to Protocols: Follow established protocols for handling specimens, medications, and waste.

### 4. Post-Operative Phase

- Wound Care: Properly dress and care for the surgical incision to prevent infection.
- Transfer to Recovery: Safely transfer the patient to the recovery area with necessary monitoring.
- Debriefing: Discuss the surgical procedure, outcomes, and any issues that arose during surgery.

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- Documentation: Accurately document details of the surgery, including findings, procedures performed, and post-operative care instructions.

## 5. Emergency Situations

- Code Blue: Immediate response protocol for cardiac arrest or other life-threatening emergencies.
- Fire Safety: Knowledge of fire evacuation procedures and use of fire extinguishers in the operating room.
- Anaphylaxis: Recognize and manage severe allergic reactions promptly during surgery.

## 6. Quality Assurance

- Adherence to Guidelines: Follow established protocols and guidelines to ensure patient safety and quality outcomes.
- Continuous Training: Regular training and drills for the surgical team to maintain competency.
- Incident Reporting: Report any adverse events, near misses, or deviations from protocols for review and improvement.

By following these operating theatre protocols and procedures, surgical teams can ensure optimal patient care, safety, and successful surgical outcomes.