

A day in the life of a Surgical Nurse

1

GET READY

I locate my patients on and access their records from an electronic surgical tracker. In the chart, I review patient history and up-to-date content from the clinic, hospital stays and ED visits.

2

PRE-OP

I complete preoperative documentation electronically. If transfer orders are needed, I add them and hold them for surgery.

3

INTRA-OP

I complete intraoperative documentation, such as surgical equipment used, medications given, implants placed, and specimens collected, electronically. I also complete a handoff to the PACU nurse before moving on to the next patient.

4

POST-OP

I complete PACU and post-operative documentation, such as a pain assessment, vitals, wounds, safety, and allergies, electronically as the patient moves through Phase I and Phase II.

5

ADMINISTER

I use new barcode scanning tools to verify safe medication administration. Blood products are scanned and verified in the Transfusion Admin Record (TAR), meeting all requirements of safe transfusion administration.

6

WRAP UP

When transferring a patient post operatively, I use the Handoff routine and complete the Transfer of Accountability (TOA) electronically. Universal discharge enables the entire care team to contribute to the discharge plan.