(A) Policy Statement

The Operations Supervisor (OS), or designee, is responsible for the assignment and supervision of all nursing care activities provided in the operating suite and in those areas of the hospital where patients require surgical intervention.

(B) Purpose of Policy

To establish and assure continuity of care for those patients undergoing surgical intervention.

(C) Procedure

1. Assignments are written, using an approved assignment sheet. The role of the circulator is assigned only to a Registered Nurse (RN).

2. Except for cystoscopy procedures and cast changes, at least two personnel will be assigned to each patient. Each team will consist of a RN and a Surgical Technician (ST), or two RN’s.

3. The complexity of the procedure and the acuity of the patient determine patient care requirements. Assignments for patient care are based on these considerations while promoting optimal patient outcomes.

4. OR personnel have training and knowledge of multiple surgical services. Personnel are assigned to a specific specialty based on experience and staffing needs.

5. Specialty teams provide coverage for the majority of orthopedic and cardiovascular procedures. In the event of a shortage of specialty team staff, the specialty team will be split with one team member in each room as the scrub nurse along with a general staff circulating nurse. In the reverse, if there is a general staff shortage, the specialty team will provide coverage at the request of the OS.

6. When necessary for patient safety, OR personnel will be sent to other areas of the hospital to assist with surgical intervention.
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*It is the responsibility of the reader to verify with the responsible agent that this is the most current version of the policy.*