

**Diversity in Theatre**

**As**

**An Enrolled Nurse**

by Sheila Street

Accomplished Enrolled Nurse

North Shore Hospital

# Diversity in Theatre



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Team Briefing

Nurses

Consultant

Dr's

0810 -  
Briefing for  
the day's list

Technician

Anaesthetist

*Discuss:*

*Each case, time  
allocation (realistic  
or not)*

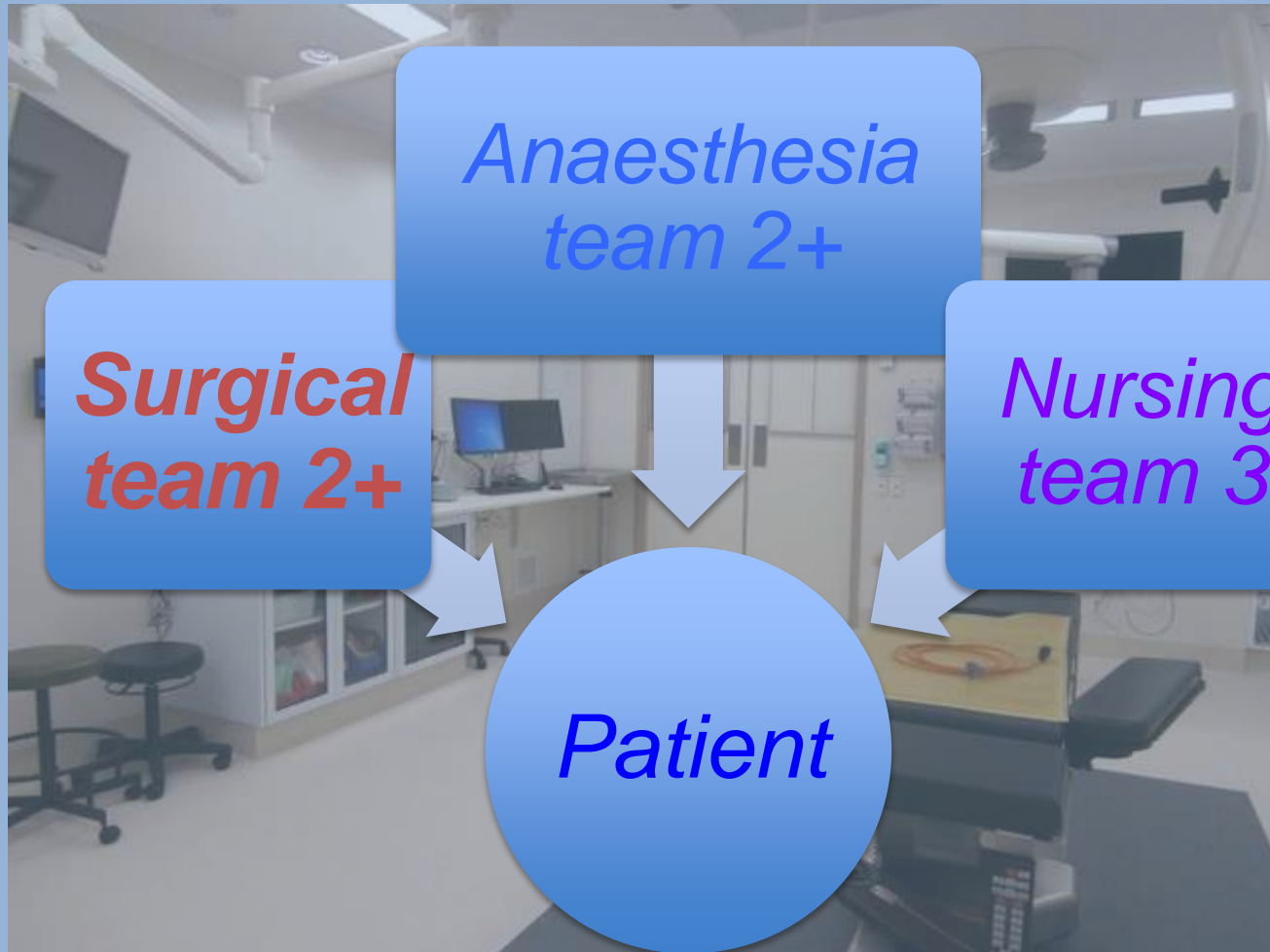
*Concerns from the 5  
areas*

*Equipment available  
or not*

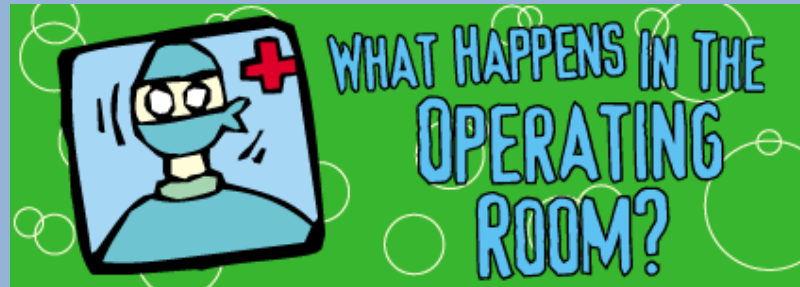
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- 1 Anaesthetic Nurse
- 2 Circulating Nurse
- 3 Scrub Nurse
- 4 Admissions/pre-op (not my area)

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## Anaesthetic Nurse Role:

- Check in patient – using Theatre Checklist
- Follow WHO sign-in guidelines in OR
- Assist “team anaesthesia” – touch often helps reassure patient - know they aren’t alone.
- Help position patient for surgery – after intubation & team anaesthesia OK.

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*Protecting the patient's arm from nerve damage and at the same time ensuring the oxygen saturation finger probe is able to work properly on a straight finger.*

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## Circulator Nurse Role:

(keeping the scrub team happy!)

- Opens sterile sets, instruments - check no holes in wraps
- Counts (out loud) with scrub nurse, Swabs, sutures, blades, instruments.
- Writes numbers against appropriate place on count board for all to see.
- Document on count sheet any missing items



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## Scrub Nurse Role:

Prior to surgery:

- Check your trolley is correct
- Select sutures (surgeon preference)
- Surgical Scrub, gown and glove
- Set up instruments – follow count policy

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**After surgery** – tidy your trolley, cover it.

- Remove your gown and gloves. Wash hands (especially if anyone has latex allergy) Sign theatre record.
- Wheel trolley to sluice room – dispose of rubbish and sharps appropriately
- Take theatre record to PACU and write into operation record book and then do a verbal handover to the nurse looking after your patient.

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No allocation to PACU 1 unless as an observer for a shift or part of.

**Theatre**  
**E/N scope of practice circle**

No giving of drugs IV

No checking blood until IV test passed.  
RN as 1<sup>st</sup> checker

Work under guidance/instruction from:  
R/N, Medical Practitioner (Surgeon),

May check class A drugs only if passed the drug calculations test.

May administer Panadol/PR/Oral meds under supervision.

Male catheterization only after doing the course.

Remember you are in control of yourself and should be able to state confidently "that's not within my scope of practice."

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- Mentor for new to theatre E/Ns and others
- Booklets for learning – New Grads & others  
(Easy notes as to expectations by peers)
- Member of Knowledge & Skills group  
(Perioperative College) for E/Ns in Theatre
- Produced a NSH K&S document for New Grad E/Ns as my 2014 portfolio project.

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## IN SUMMARY

- Stable work force – usually stay
- Knowledge – we know our scope of practice
- Our voice matters – speak up