

SCOPE OF PRACTICE

FOR PERIOPERATIVE NURSES

IN KENYA



MAY 2022



SCOPE OF PRACTICE
FOR PERIOPERATIVE CARE NURSES
IN KENYA

May 2022

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VISION, MISSION AND CORE VALUES



Our Vision

A world-class regulatory body in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



Our Mission

Develop standards, enforce regulations in nursing and midwifery education, and practice



Our Values

Our core values express that everything we do comes from deeply-held commitments and shared understanding of our values, what we stand for, how we treat each other and those we serve; that inform every policy and steer every action summarized as:

Inspire

I – Integrity: We are committed to acting in an honest, accountable and transparent manner in all our undertakings.

N – Nurture: We value and nurture the strength of character it takes to work together as a team, to be an individual, to respect differences of opinions, and have the ability to empathize with others.

S – Social Responsibility: Caring for the patient, family, community and the environment.

P – Professionalism: We are dedicated to the highest levels of achievement obtainable through competencies and critical skills.

I – Innovation: We thrive on creativity and ingenuity. We seek the innovations that are evidence-based and data-driven to bring a positive change to the Council.

R – Responsiveness: We act with a sense of urgency, make qualified decisions in time and provide fiscally responsible solutions.


E – Excellence: We pledge the highest levels of effectiveness and efficiency.

FOREWORD



The Nursing Council of Kenya (NCK) is established by an act of parliament (Nurses Act Cap 257). Pursuant to the Nurses Act, the council is mandated to make provision for nursing education and practice to include specialized courses for nurses such as perioperative nursing. The goal of the nursing council in regulating nursing education and practice is to ensure safe practitioners and quality health care services as reflected in the nursing council strategy 2017– 2022, and the scope of practice for nurses and midwives– Entry level.

Surgical care is essential in improving population health, and a need to reduce adverse surgical effects exists. Perioperative nurses provide nursing care in the preoperative, intraoperative and postoperative periods of the patients' surgical experience in different surgical set ups. As a member of the multidisciplinary health care team, the nurse is responsible for creating a safe environment and making succinct patient observations that can greatly impact on the outcomes of care.



The nurse must use critical thinking skills, work in precision and act on core scientific principles to make sound clinical decisions that will promote positive patients care outcomes. In addition, the nurses must operate within their mandate as per the level of training. As such, this first edition of the scope of practice for the perioperative nurse spells out the extent of practice for the different levels of this nursing specialty.

Prof. Eunice Ndirangu– Mugo

CHAIRPERSON

NURSING COUNCIL OF KENYA

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ACLS	Advanced Cardiac Life Support
ANP	Advanced Nurse Practice
BLS	Basic Life Support
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
DSE	Discipline Standards and Ethics
PACU	Post Anesthesia Care Unit


SECTION I: INTRODUCTION

The scope of practice of the Kenya Registered Perioperative Nurse offers guidance on practice for nurses who have qualified and graduated from a perioperative nursing educational program and have been registered and licensed by Nursing Council of Kenya. It addresses the responsibilities associated with perioperative practice that are performed in a multi-disciplinary health care team.

The scope is intended to guide the perioperative nurse practice in promoting high-quality patient care. It recognizes that the practice of perioperative nurse is bound to change over time with new developments and evidence-based practice, and as such, this document will be reviewed periodically as need arises.

1.1 Purpose of the Scope of Practice

The purpose of this scope of practice is to describe the variety of professional responsibilities expected of the Perioperative nurse. It considers the Perioperative nurse as a self-regulating professional who works in collaboration with other qualified health care workers. It is expected to guide the practice of the Perioperative nurse across all levels of health care delivery. It is



expected that the Perioperative nurse will offer services based on training, experience and practice setting in line with the law and Code of Ethics and Conduct for nurses.

1.2 Levels of Preparation of a Perioperative Nurse

There are three levels of preparation of perioperative nurses in Kenya. These are higher diploma, post graduate diploma and master. In addition to the scope of the registered nurse, the nurses have competencies in perioperative care.

2.1 Higher Diploma in Perioperative Care Nurse

The nurse has a higher diploma in Perioperative nursing and has acquired additional competencies to the registered nurse competencies. The higher diploma in perioperative nurse will:

1. Use the nursing process to perform comprehensive systemic health assessment, make nursing diagnosis, plan, implement and evaluate care of patients during the perioperative period.
2. Coordinate and collaborate with multidisciplinary health care team members to plan and provide quality care to patients perioperatively.
3. Prescribe, perform, interpret and utilize selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines and as per appendix 3.
4. Prescribe and administer prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
5. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.
6. Ascertain that the consent is completed and signed by the patient.

7. Prescribe and perform specialized procedures as per appendix 4.
8. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
9. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services.
10. Participate in research and utilize research findings to promote quality perioperative care.
11. Provide clinical mentorship in operating units.
12. Diagnose and manage or mitigate perioperative emergencies.
13. Prepare, use and care for equipment and instruments in operating units.
14. Participate in development and implementation of health perioperative programs.
15. Contribute to specification and quality checks to determine suitability of theater structure, devices and supplies required for operations.
16. Advocate for access to quality perioperative care.
17. Promote patient safety in all perioperative phases.
18. Facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.


19. Provide psychosocial support to individual and families receiving peri – operative care.
20. Manage perioperative services at ward and unit level.
21. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving peri – operative care.

2.2 Post –Graduate Diploma in Perioperative Care Nurse

The nurse has a post-graduate diploma in Perioperative nursing. The nurse acquires competencies to work at both operational and management level in perioperative nursing. The Postgraduate Diploma perioperative care nurse will:


1. Use the nursing process to perform comprehensive systemic health assessment, make nursing diagnosis, plan, implement and evaluate care of patients during the perioperative period.
2. Coordinate and collaborate with multidisciplinary health care team members to plan and provide quality care to patients perioperatively.
3. Prescribe, perform, interpret and utilize selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines and as per appendix 3.

4. Prescribe and administer prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
5. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.
6. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
7. Ascertain that the consent is completed and signed by the patient.
8. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services.
9. Prescribe and perform specialized procedures as per appendix 4.
10. Provide clinical mentorship in operating units.
11. Diagnose and manage or mitigate perioperative emergencies.
12. Prepare, use and care for equipment and instruments in operating units.
13. Participate in development and implementation of health perioperative programs.
14. Contribute to specification and quality checks to determine suitability of theater structure, devices and supplies required for operations.
15. Promote patient safety in all perioperative phases.

- 
16. Facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.
 17. Prescribe and administer opioids and antiemetics in consultation with relevant health team member.
 18. Develop policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services.
 19. Conduct and utilizes research findings to promote quality perioperative care.
 20. Develop and implement health perioperative program.
 21. Provide psychosocial support to individual and families receiving peri – operative care.
 22. Manage perioperative services at facilities as well as training institutions.
 23. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving perioperative care.
 24. Implement curriculum related to perioperative nursing at diploma and higher diploma level.

2.3 Master of Science in Nursing– Perioperative Care Nurse


A Perioperative nurse qualified at master's level has undergone specialty training in Perioperative nursing after undergraduate



studies. The nurse in this level is in advanced nursing practice in Perioperative nursing. One has a specialization in perioperative field of nursing. This is a nurse specialist who can engage in Advanced Nurse Practice (ANP). This advanced practice may include the roles of primary care provider, coordinator, consultant, educator, researcher and administrator. The master in Nursing- Peri-operative care nurse will:

1. Use the nursing process to perform comprehensive systemic health assessment, make nursing diagnosis, plan, implement and evaluate care of patients during the perioperative period.
2. Coordinate and collaborate with multidisciplinary health care team members to plan and provide quality care to patients' perioperatively.
3. Prescribe, perform, Interpret and utilize selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines.
4. Prescribe and administer prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines.
5. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.

- 
6. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes.
 7. Ascertain that the consent is completed and signed by the patient.
 8. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services.
 9. Prescribe and perform specialized procedures as per appendix 4.
 10. Provide clinical mentorship in operating units.
 11. Diagnose and manage or mitigate perioperative emergencies.
 12. Prepare, use and care for equipment and instruments in operating units.
 13. Participate in development and implementation of health perioperative programs.
 14. Contribute to specification and quality checks to determine suitability of theater structure, devices and supplies required for operations.
 15. Promote patient safety in all perioperative phases.
 16. Prescribe and administer opioids and antiemetics in consultation with relevant health team member.
 17. Provide leadership in policy and frameworks formulation for perioperative nursing services.

- 
18. Initiate, conduct research and utilizes research finding to promote quality perioperative care.
 19. Initiate development and implementation of perioperative programs.
 20. Systematically evaluate the quality and appropriateness of nursing practice in perioperative care.
 21. Initiate and facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.
 22. Provide consultancy services in matters relating to perioperative practice.
 23. Provide psychosocial support to individuals and families receiving perioperative care.
 24. Manage perioperative services at all levels of health care.
 25. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving perioperative care.
 26. Develop and implement curriculum related to perioperative nursing at the graduate and post-graduate levels.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1: COMPARATIVE TABLE

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Use the nursing process to perform comprehensive systemic health assessment, make nursing diagnosis, plan, implement and evaluate care of patients during the perioperative period.2. Coordinate and collaborate with multidisciplinary health care team members to plan and provide quality care to patients' perioperatively.	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of higher diploma:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Prescribe and administer opioids and antiemetics in consultation with relevant health team member.2. Develop of policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services.3. Conduct research and utilize research findings to	<p>In addition to the scope of practice of higher diploma:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.2. Provide leadership in policy and frameworks formulation for perioperative nursing services.

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>3. Prescribe, perform, interpret and utilize selected laboratory and diagnostic findings to make clinical decisions/ judgment in patient care according to relevant protocols and guidelines.</p> <p>4. Administer prescribed medication to clients /patients as per the guidelines. Prepare patients for surgical interventions and participate in intra- and immediate post-operative care.</p>	<p>promote quality perioperative care.</p> <p>4. Develop and implement health perioperative programs.</p> <p>5. Manage perioperative services at facilities as well as training institutions.</p> <p>6. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving perioperative care.</p>	<p>3. Initiate, conduct research and utilizes research finding to promote quality perioperative care.</p> <p>4. Initiate development and implementation of perioperative programs.</p> <p>5. Systematically evaluate the quality and appropriateness of nursing practice in perioperative care.</p> <p>6. Initiate and facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.</p>

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Ascertain that the consent is completed and signed by the patient. 6. Perform specialized procedures as per appendix 3. 7. Participate in making ethical decisions regarding patient care outcomes. 8. Participate in development of policies and guidelines that promote access to perioperative services. 9. Participate in research and utilizes research findings to promote quality perioperative care. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Provide consultancy services in matters relating to perioperative practice. 8. Implement curriculum related to perioperative nursing at graduate and post graduate level.

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>10. Provide clinical mentorship in operating units.</p> <p>11. Diagnose and manage or mitigate perioperative emergencies.</p> <p>12. Prepare, use and care for equipment and instruments in operating units.</p> <p>13. Participate in development and implementation of health perioperative programs.</p> <p>14. Contribute to specification and quality checks to determine suitability of theater structure, devices</p>		

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>and supplies required for operations.</p> <p>15. Advocate for access to quality perioperative care.</p> <p>16. Promote patient safety in all perioperative phases.</p> <p>17. Facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic and continuity of perioperative care.</p> <p>18. Facilitate multidisciplinary collaboration with relevant agencies and stakeholders in the provision of holistic</p>		

Higher Diploma	Post Graduate Diploma	Masters
<p>and continuity of perioperative care.</p> <p>19. Provide psychosocial support to individual and families receiving perioperative care.</p> <p>20. Manage perioperative services at ward and unit level.</p> <p>21. Monitor and follow up on patients receiving perioperative care.</p>		

APPENDIX 2: DRUG LIST SCHEDULING CONSIDERATIONS

The perioperative nurse shall be guided by the following:

1. Work to the extent of training and certification, i.e. higher diploma, post basic diploma, postgraduate diploma, masters or PhD
2. Power to prescribe medications with different levels of Physician oversight.
 - Restricted
 - Reduced restrictions
 - Full practice autonomy
3. Individual qualification, experience and competence

The perioperative nurse shall prescribe/administer drugs & vaccines in line with the competencies, job description and institutional guidelines.

The perioperative care nurse shall prescribe &/or administer specific drugs in:

1. Consultation with the prescribing officer. The drugs shall be relevant to the ailment in question as per the pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics principles.
2. Emergency where her/his decision shall result in saving the life of the patient.

3. Situations where a nurse is licensed as a private practitioner, working in a public / family/ or community setting and the patient's condition warrant so.
4. Circumstances where patient/client is bleeding and requires urgent intervention to save life. The perioperative nurse shall prescribe and administer intravenous fluids, blood and blood products to stabilize the patient.
5. Cases where a patient with mental health challenges is in danger, or endangers the lives of others.
6. A case where a prescription has been given by the relevant prescribing officer.

Medications that can be prescribed and administered by perioperative nurse include:

- For seizure/ convulsions
- Pain management
- Relief of fever
- Management of shock syndromes
- For dysrhythmias
- Electrolyte imbalance
- Fluid administration
- Blood and blood products transfusions.

APPENDIX 3: LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS SCHEDULE

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
ROUTINE TESTS			
Complete blood count (CBC)			
Arterial blood gas (ABG)			
Blood sugar (RBS/FBS)			
Urea/Electrolyte/Creatinine (U/E/C)			
BASED ON PATIENT NEEDS			
Coagulation profile (APTT, PTI)			
INR			
ECG			
Cardiac Triage (D-Dimers, Myoglobin, Troponin, CKMB, Pro BNP)			
Liver function tests (LFTs)			
Bilirubin Levels			
Lipid profile			
Cultures (Blood, Urine, tracheal aspirate, catheter tip, pus swab)			
C-Reactive protein (CRP)			
CSF studies			
Spirometry testing			
Urinalysis (Dip stick)			
Pregnancy test			

INVESTIGATIONS	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
Thyroid function test			
RADIOLOGICAL TESTS			
X-ray			
Echocardiogram		C	
Doppler/ Ultrasound	A	C	
Ct Scan/MRI/PET	C	C	C

Key:

Order, Perform, Interpret and Utilize		
Order, Interpret and Utilize		
Interpret and Utilize		
A	With Additional Training can perform	
C	In consultation	

APPENDIX 4: SPECIALIZED PROCEDURES SCHEDULE

This schedule outlines the common medical surgical procedures performed by the perioperative nurse and shall be reviewed and updated from time to time as necessary.

PROCEDURES	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
ROUTINE procedures			
1. Oxygen therapy			
2. Invasive monitoring			
3. Assemble equipment and set up central venous pressure monitoring			
4. Perform tracheal suction and tracheostomy care			
5. Perform endotracheal intubation and extubation			
6. Analyze and interpret various ECG rhythms and intervene appropriately			
7. Diagnose Cardio-pulmonary arrest & carry out resuscitation effectively as a team leader/ member			
8. Perform the following special procedures:			
a. Defibrillation			
b. Cardioversion			

PROCEDURES	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
c. Insertion of artificial airway			
d. Assemble and set cardiac monitor			
e. Record and interpret 12-Lead ECG			
9. Mechanical ventilator			
a. Set up Mechanical ventilator			
b. Wean patient off ventilator			
10. Set and use syringe pumps			
11. Set and use infusion pumps			
12. Effectively nebulize a patient in all perioperative phases			
13. Spirometry			
14. Care of a patient with underwater seal drainage			
15. Removal of chest tubes			
16. Pulmonary capillary wedge pressure/CO2 monitoring, interpreting and intervening			
17. Pericardial tap			
18. Insertion of CVP lines			
19. Insertion Arterial lines			

PROCEDURES	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
20. Insertion of chest tube			
21. insertion of vascular accesses for dialysis			
22. Counsel patients, family and significant others			
23. Provide immediate post-operative care			
24. Perform comprehensive patient assessment and document in the flow sheet.			
25. Glasgow coma scale scoring			
26. Intraosseous cannulation			
27. Intravenous Cannulation			
28. Urethral catheterization			
29. First Assistant Surgeon	A&C		
30. Prescribe/Perform minor surgery			
31. Administer prescribed medication			
32. Receive and handover patient in theatre			
33. Positioning of patient for surgery ensuring safety			
34. Instrument processing			
35. Scrub nurse			
36. Circulating nurse			

PROCEDURES	HIGHER DIPLOMA	POST GRADUATE	MASTERS
37. Recovery nurse			
38. Receiving nurse			

Key:

Perform unassisted	
Perform with assistance	
Participate/ Assist in procedure	
A	With Additional Training can perform
C	In consultation

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Anesthesia

Insensitivity to pain, especially as artificially induced by the administration of gases or the injection of drugs before surgical operations.

Assessment

The organized, systematic and continuous process of observations and measurements of perioperative nurse care. Assessment includes the use of interviewing, physical examination and carrying out investigations.

Autonomy

Self-direction and independent decision making in perioperative nursing practice.

Basic

Offering or constituting the minimum required without elaboration or luxury.

Collaborative

Refers to working with other people towards a common objective. Collaboration includes group decision-making about division of tasks, the plan of action and implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

Competencies

Basic knowledge, skills, attitudes and judgment required to safely perform the prescribed role.

Intraoperative period

Begins when the patient is transferred to the operating room table and ends with the transfer of a patient to the post-anesthesia care unit (PACU).

Manager

A person delegated the responsibility and authority by the organization to co-ordinate individual efforts of others to achieve organizational goals and objectives.

Mentor/ preceptor

A nurse who has demonstrated competence in practice and guides learners who are acquiring clinical competence as part of a recognized program of training. The preceptor demonstrates nurse practice skills, gives the learner feedback on his/her performance and evaluates the learner's mastery of clinical skills and achievement of learning objectives.

Multidisciplinary team

A group of health care workers who are members of different disciplines/professions each providing specific services to the patient.

Preventive

Refers to a perioperative nurse action that helps to minimize or hinder occurrence of potential health problems.

Scope of Nursing Practice

The term scope of Nursing Practice defines the limits of care a nurse is supposed to provide during their practice that are of concern to nurses. However, the scopes of practice statements usually go beyond that point to differentiate between the levels of the nurses' preparation and experience. Nursing is autonomous and occurs within partnership with the clients and other collaborators. It embraces responsibility and accountability for continued competence and ethical behavior in practice.

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Amendment Sheet

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