

C1L1 - Ashley Hay

(0:05 - 5:41)

Hello, welcome back. So we already just kind of briefly covered the introduction to what this course might include, but now I would like to just go and dive in a little bit deeper. So starting with course one, lesson one, we give just kind of a brief introduction to the profession of surgical technology and what that will look like for you as a professional.

We did go over briefly some kind of, you know, just the history of the profession in general, and then also some organisations. And while I think the history of how the surgical technologist came to be is really interesting and definitely important to know, you know, a bit of your background and kind of what you're going to be practising and how all of that came about. I also think that the professional and affiliate organisations that we're going to talk about today are really important for you to know because they can be incredible resources for you.

So being able to reach out and, you know, maybe get some educational references that you're interested in or find certain scope of practise areas, continuing education. Often these professional organisations also put on different kinds of meetings and symposiums, things like that. So just, you know, big get-togethers every year, so that way you can also get some continuing ed that way and kind of network with some of your peers.

Okay, so here we see just a few logos of these professional and affiliate organisations who are available to help you. One that I'd really like to point out is the Association of Surgical Technologists. That's AST.

That one is right here, the blue and black logo. So this is a specific organisation in surgical technology. They provide forums for learning, discussion and advocacy, as well as training and curriculum development, and they advocate for standards in patient care.

So looking at all that this organisation has to offer is definitely helpful to you. You should definitely, you know, visit their website and see what they have to offer. And then there's a few other ones here.

The National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting, that's abbreviated NBSTSA, and that's this first one on the left here, the blue and red icon, and they are a certifying body really for surgical tech. There's certain centres for testing, the NCCT, National Centre for Competency Testing, and then there's just a few of these here that I think will be helpful to you. But definitely, you know, if I had to only pick one or two, I would say AST and the National Board of SurgTech would be kind of your best options to just kind of start your learning journey there and see what those are all about.

I know that we talked a little bit about what you might be expected to do in the field of, you know, surgical technology. I think it's important to know that the Joint Commission defines your

role as an allied health professional who works closely with surgeons and other surgery personnel, delivering care before, during, and after surgery. So your role, you know, can vary by a lot of different things.

One is kind of if you choose to go into an individual specialisation or speciality field, obviously your role may be a little bit different than somebody who's in like a general med position for surgical tech. And then also the type of facility that you're practising at. So, you know, they all kind of have different levels of capability and the care that they're able to provide to patients, so that will affect your role as well.

Basically, you know, your biggest roles, you know, that you may be asked to do is looking at, you know, a number of different perioperative, so before, during, and after surgery. Perioperative responsibilities might include things like, you know, setting up equipment, sterilising equipment, just kind of preparing the operating room for the upcoming surgeon, and kind of knowing that surgeon's preferences. So, you know, just things like that, ordering and taking inventory of the supplies to be used.

You can really do a huge number of different kinds of roles here. A scrub role is another one. This is where the surgical tech sets up and maintains and also protects the sterile field, and it is certainly something to be protected.

And so not only are you watching your own actions to make sure that you are maintaining a sterile field, and that means not touching anything that's not sterile. You know, that might include like your gown or your face or a different table or whatever, but you're also protecting that field and watching others' actions as well. So it really requires a lot of focus.

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You prepare and pass instruments during surgery, and then you also maintain a surgical count along with the circulator. So, you know, this is really just to make sure that when we're closing wounds on patients, that we don't have any sort of surgical items that are retained inside the patient, because clearly that is never something that we want, and it can lead to massive infections. So we just talked about the circulator role.

That can really vary too, but in a general sense, you may be a non-sterile member of the surgical team. You can help prepare the non-sterile equipment in the operating room and help open, you know, certain supplies and instruments to allow it to be dropped onto the sterile field. You can also assist with positioning and transferring the patients, performing skin prep, which means, you know, kind of cleaning the site, which this can kind of vary based on whatever organisation you're working with, whatever policies and procedures they have in place.

Remember that that's always what you're kind of following first. Okay. Yeah.

So there's, you know, definitely a lot of different perioperative responsibilities. Hopefully you

were able to watch some of the videos and read along in your ebook as well, and make sure that, you know, when you're going through your ebook for each kind of lesson that we're going through here, that you're going along and, you know, taking notes or writing down questions that you have. So that way, hopefully, you know, you can set up some coaching sessions with our coaches, bring those questions up before, you know, you're kind of all the way at the end of the course, and you're trying to prepare for your exam, and you have these outstanding questions.

So that's just a nice little study tip to kind of go along here as you prepare to finish your course. We also briefly talked about a few different things, you know, for surgical practitioners. So, you know, accepting responsibility for all of our actions as any healthcare provider is imperative.

Maintaining confidentiality and patient privacy, always a number one concern, along with their safety, of course. Non-discrimination, always practising medicine without any sort of personal bias. And then cost control, so we try and reduce waste whenever possible, knowing that supplies are not just infinite, and there is a cost associated with all of them.

And then, of course, you know, just maintaining sterility whenever we are asked to, or whenever possible. But always practising asepsis and just proper hand hygiene is really critical for the outcome of a lot of your, all of your patients, and you as well. So, yeah, there's also some organisation websites that we made sure to list in the lesson as well.

And I know that I mentioned some of them here today, so be sure to check those out. And I will see you for your next lesson. Bye for now.