

Dear Student:

On behalf of the Elliot OR staff, let me welcome you to the dynamic world of peri-operative nursing. We are an exciting, fast-paced department that challenges our nurses and uses all the skills we have come to rely on.

I am the clinical educator for the OR and will be primarily responsible for your observation time with us. It is my goal to provide you with the best experience possible in the short time that you are with us in the OR. In order to achieve this, I would ask you to help me by coming prepared- first, please eat before you arrive (this can help prevent that light-headed feeling some people get) second, let me know if you are studying any particular anatomy or disease grouping, and third, be curious and ask questions!

When you arrive at 7 am you will need to come to the OR office window on the second floor. You will be directed to the changing room where you will put on scrubs. The OR is kept cool (68 degrees or LESS); you can wear a short-sleeved t-shirt under the scrub top and I will also get you a cover gown or jacket. No turtlenecks are allowed. You will not need a stethoscope, but please bring your student ID.

You will begin the day in the surgical admission area where you can observe the admitting process for the surgical patient you will follow. If the patient is having a spinal or epidural anesthetic you can observe this. The anesthesia staff is also a good source of information and will be happy to explain what they are doing. When the OR nurse comes to get the patient you will accompany her to the OR. She will place you in a position where you can best observe the surgery. The start of the case is the busiest time for the circulating nurse- After the patient is asleep, prepped and draped she will have more time to answer your questions and explain what you see.

Throughout the morning I will check in on you- as the different surgeries begin and more opportunities open up I will ask you if you want to change rooms, take a break, lunch , whatever. If you see a certain surgery listed on the schedule that you have a particular interest in let me know and I will do my best to get you in there. However, if the room is already crowded with other students, sales reps, etc, I may have to delay putting you in that room. The OR is used as a clinical site for several schools so it can get crowded at times.

The sights, sound and smells of the OR can be overwhelming.. If you don't feel well please speak up. This is not uncommon and can be easily dealt with by getting you into the lounge and having a snack or drink. Usually this is all it takes and then you can rejoin us in a few minutes.

This is just a brief overview –I will be happy to answer any other questions about the OR that you may have. Please call me at extension 2282 anytime. See you soon!

Sandi Buckley, BSN, OR Clinical Educator