



Support. Learn. Lead.

Empowering Perioperative Teams: How Resource Nurses Make A Difference

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BACKGROUND

Resource Nurses play a vital role in perioperative care by acting as clinical leaders, educators, and key facilitators within surgical teams. Currently, five Resource Nurses support 124 operating rooms, pre-operative, and postoperative spaces across multiple campuses, covering a range of surgical specialties. These nurses bring advanced expertise in perioperative protocols and workflows, allowing them to offer real-time guidance, mentorship¹, and problem-solving to promote patient safety and care continuity².

In addition to their clinical support, Resource Nurses help implement best practices, monitor adherence to standards, and drive quality improvement initiatives. Their involvement strengthens team communication and nurtures a culture of collaboration and ongoing professional development. As surgical practices grow and healthcare systems continue to evolve, the role of Resource Nurses will be crucial in ensuring the delivery of high-quality, efficient perioperative care.

ASSESSMENT

The perioperative environment demands precision, coordination, and adaptability. Within this complex setting, Resource Nurses bridge the gap between frontline staff, nurse leaders, and interdisciplinary teams. Their expertise ensures that both patient care and staff development occurs seamlessly, maintaining safety and efficiency across surgical services.

IMPLEMENTATION

The Resource Nurse role was introduced to strengthen clinical support, enhance patient safety, and improve team communication. Implementation began with defining clear role expectations and selecting experienced nurses with strong clinical and leadership skills. Based on positive outcomes, the role continues to evolve and expand.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Clinical Expertise: Provides at the elbow support and assists with troubleshooting complex clinical situations
- Mentorship and Education: Coaches and mentors allied health staff with just in time learning
- Quality and Safety Advocate: Promotes adherence to policies, procedures, and best practices in the perioperative environment
- Liaison and Communicator: Serves as a communication bridge between management, educators, interprofessional teams, and allied health staff members
- See Table 1 for collaborative partnerships

Table 1: Collaboration among the Resource Nurse Role

Collaborator	Role in Partnership	Impact on Perioperative Outcomes
Nurse Leaders and Managers	Align goals for safety and quality improvement	Improved efficiency
Nurse Educators	Develop and deliver continuing education	Enhanced clinical competency
Interprofessional Teams	Facilitate and streamline perioperative workflows	Standardized processes and enhanced communication
Allied Health Staff	Receive real time mentorship and support	Increased confidence and skill proficiency

IMPACT ON PRACTICE

- Enhances patient safety and quality of care
- Promotes professional growth and staff engagement
- Strengthens interdisciplinary collaboration
- Supports continuous improvement through data-informed practice
- Encourages a positive workplace culture

CONCLUSION

The Resource Nurse role is pivotal to perioperative nursing excellence. By integrating clinical leadership, education, and collaboration, Resource Nurses uphold high standards of patient care while advancing team cohesion and professional development. Their influence extends beyond daily operations—driving the evolution of perioperative nursing practice toward safety, quality, and innovation.

REFERENCES

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