

Maddie Neighbors, RN, BSN & Tracie White, DNP, ACNP-BC, CRNFA, CNOR, CHSE

Background/Training

Responsibilities of RNFA

Assessment & preparation of the patient for surgery

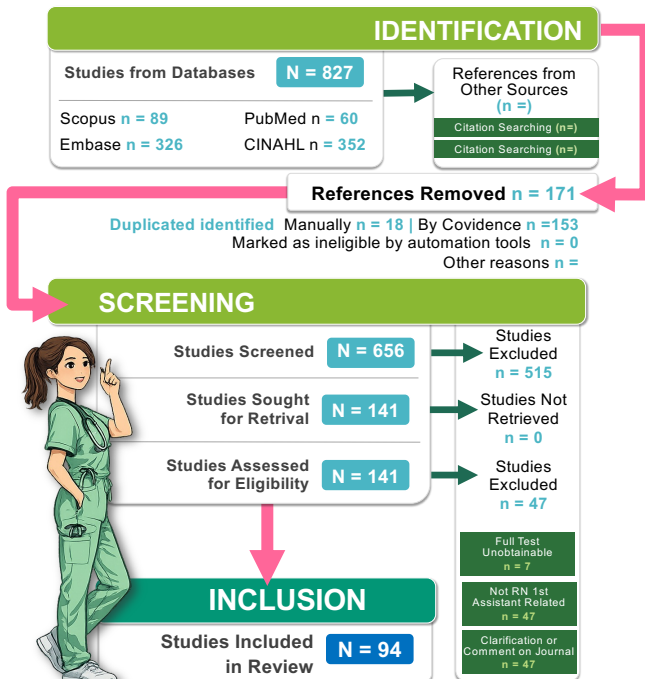
Intra-operatively: Provides exposure and assists with hemostasis and suturing safely under the surgeon's supervision.

Postoperatively: responsibilities include wound care management, pain management & discharge planning.

Minimum qualifications for RNFA practice



PRISMA Diagram



Interview with a CRNFA



Steven Parsons MSN, RN, CNL, CNOR, CRNFA

HOW DO YOU PREPARE FOR A SURGERY?

At 0630, RNFAs review the chart, patient history, radiology, and procedural steps. Each surgeon has their certain methods, so their preferences are prepared for.

DO YOU HAVE ANY INTERACTION WITH PATIENTS IN PRE-OP AND POST-OP?

- Pre-op: RNFAs talk with patient before surgery.
- Post-op: RNFAs take the patient to PACU for stabilization.

WHAT ARE YOUR SHIFTS & SCHEDULE NORMALLY LIKE? HOW LONG ARE YOUR CASES?

Depends on the surgery, but he works 4 shifts and 1 day off during week. He stays until the cases are done.

HOW HAS THE ROLE OF THE RNFA CHANGED OVER THE YEARS?

The role hasn't been clearly defined over years. History goes back to Nightingale during Crimean War, but they were not always called RNFAs.

Key Findings

- 1 Higher nurse-physician interaction satisfaction
- 2 Increased operating room efficiency, cost savings, and improved patient outcomes
- 3 Very little research and literature involving RNFAs in the past 20 years
- 4 RNFAs often function at the level of junior resident physicians & fellows



Next Steps

More programs across the country & increased employment opportunities from hospitals.

Further research could be conducted in

- Advantages of being an RNFA with NP
- Benefits to having RNFAs vs other surgical assistants in surgery
- Ways to improve RNFA training and education
- Getting more universities to develop RNFA programs

Scan here for RN First Assistant Resources

