



Study Plan

References Cited in This Plan:

- AORN. (current edition). *Guidelines for perioperative practice*. Author.
- Odom-Forren, J. (Ed.). (2024). *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach* (8th Ed.). Elsevier. (Key=Drain's)
- Hornacky, A., & Phillips, N. (2024). *Berry and Kohn's operating room technique* (15th ed.). Elsevier. (Key=B&K)
- Rothrock, J. C. (Ed.). (2023). *Alexander's care of the patient in surgery* (17th ed.). Elsevier. (Key=Alexander's)
- AORN Position Statements and endorsed documents are found at <http://www.aorn.org/guidelines/clinical-resources/position-statements>

Disclaimer: This is a guide to assist you in preparing for the CNOR exam. It is not intended to be all inclusive, but rather a guide to assist you in planning your study.

NOTE: **Bolded** items appear in multiple subject areas

Subject Area 1: Pre/Postoperative Patient Assessment and Diagnosis

(15%)

Primary General Readings:

- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Chapters 1, 2, & 29
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Chapters 2, 3, 11, & 21
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Section II: Physiological Considerations in the PACU

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Confirm patient identity with two (2) patient identifiers	Preoperative verification; The Joint Commission; Universal Protocol - wrong site, wrong procedure, wrong person	The Joint Commission. <i>Universal Protocol</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJC's Universal Protocol
2: Confirm correct procedure, operative site, side/site marking with a completed appropriate consent (e.g., surgery, anesthesia, blood)	Informed surgical consent; Surgical safety checklist; Site marking, Universal Protocol - wrong site, wrong procedure, wrong person	See primary general readings. AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management • Team Communication AORN Position Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Wrong- Patient, Wrong-Site, Wrong-Procedure Events Alexander's: Chapters 2, 19, & 20 Drain's: Chapters 7 & 8 The Joint Commission. <i>Universal Protocol</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJC's Universal Protocol
3: Review relevant patient data	Allergies; Lab/diagnostic studies/procedures and results ; Medical history; Surgical history; NPO status ; H&P; Pathophysiology; Diagnostic procedures and results; Pharmacology; Age-appropriate health assessment	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia • Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia Alexander's: Chapter 1 B&K: Chapter 22

	physical and psychosocial techniques	Drain's: Chapter 2
4: Use age and culturally appropriate health assessment techniques (e.g., interview, observation)	Age-appropriate health assessment physical and psychosocial techniques; Cultural competence, including physical and psychosocial accommodations; Interview; Observation	AORN Position Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of the Older Adult in Perioperative Settings Alexander's: Chapters 26 & 27 B&K: Chapters 8 & 9 Drain's: Chapters 49 & 50
5: Review medication reconciliation	Alcohol use; Allergies; Alternative and herbal supplements; Home medications; Medical marijuana; Recreational drug use; Medication reconciliation; Pharmacology; Polypharmacy; Preoperative medications	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complementary Care Medication Safety AORN Endorsed Document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Joint Position Statement on Substance Use Alexander's: Chapters 19 & 29 B&K: Chapter 23 Drain's: Chapter 19
6: Conduct an individualized physical and psychosocial assessment	Age-appropriate health assessment physical and psychosocial techniques; Anatomy & physiology; Assessment; Body piercings; Cognitive level; Diagnostic procedures and results; Documentation; Laboratory results; Mobility; NPO status; Nursing process; Nutrition; Pathophysiology; Physical assessment; Skin integrity; Vital signs; Family support; Socioeconomic factors; Spiritual	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Management Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia Alexander's: Chapter 5, 6, 26, & 27; Appendix A B&K: Chapters 7, 8, 9, & 25 Drain's: Chapter 27
7: Obtain a focused assessment relevant to the procedure	Anatomy & physiology, Pathophysiology; Aldrete score; Neurological assessment; Any required	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioning the Patient Alexander's: Chapter 21 & 26 B&K: Chapters 11 & 25

	preoperative preparation/procedures	Drain's: Chapters 2, 3, & 38
8: Perform a pain assessment	Pharmacology; Pain measurement techniques including multi-modal and alternative therapies	Alexander's: Chapters 5, 10, 26, & 27 B&K: Chapters 5 & 10 Drain's: Chapter 31
9: Identify nursing diagnoses	NANDA; Nursing diagnosis ; PNDs	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information Management AORN Endorsed Document: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ANA Position Statement on Inclusion of Recognized Terminologies within EHR and other HIT Solutions Alexander's: Chapter 1
10: Confirm advance directive status and/or DNR status	Advance directive; DNR	AORN Position Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perioperative Care of Patients with Do-Not-Resuscitate Orders Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapter 3 Drain's : Chapters 7 & 8
11: Conduct patient and family teaching as appropriate for the procedure	Teaching and learning theories	Alexander's: Chapter 6, 10, & 26 *Review patient/family education for the various surgical procedures. B&K: Chapter 21 Drain's: Chapter 28

Subject Area 2: Individualized Plan of Care Development and Expected Outcome Identification

(8%)

Primary General Readings:

- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Chapter 1; Unit II: Surgical interventions
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Chapters 2, 7, & 21
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Section II: Physiological Considerations in the PACU

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Identify measurable patient outcomes across the continuum of care	Patient outcomes	Alexander's: Chapters 1 & 10; Unit II Surgical Interventions
2: Identify specific interventions for each nursing diagnosis to achieve expected outcomes	Disease processes; Physiological responses; Interventions; NANDA International, Inc.; PNDS (Perioperative Nursing Data Set); Nursing diagnoses; Nursing process	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management <p>AORN Endorsed Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Position Statement on Inclusion of Recognized Terminologies within EHR and other HIT Solutions <p>Alexander's: Chapter 1</p>
3: Ensure care plan addresses specific patient considerations including physiological and behavioral responses, perioperative safety, age considerations, diversity, legal and ethical guidelines	Age-specific needs and patient-centered care; Behavioral and emotional responses to the surgical experience ; Disease processes; Transcultural nursing theory (e.g., cultural/ethnic influences, diversity, family patterns, spirituality and related practices, gender identity); Theories of and resources for patient/family education (e.g., community and institutional resources); Legal/ethical standards; Patient rights/responsibilities;	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management • Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia • Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia • Implementation of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Safety <p>AORN Endorsed Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Free From Harm: Accelerating Patient Safety Improvement 15 Years After to Err is Human <p>Alexander's: Plans of care are included in each specialty chapter.</p>

	Perioperative safety based upon individual patient assessment (e.g., existing implants, pacemakers, AICD); Physiological responses; Plan of care; Enhanced Recovery after Surgery (ERAS); Legal and ethical responsibilities; and Implications for patient care	
4: Evaluate patient responses to plan of care	Evaluation	Alexander's: Chapter 1 B&K: Chapter 2
5: Update plan of care as needed	Patient education	Alexander's: Chapter 10, 16, & 26 B&K: Chapter 1, 2, & 21
6. Utilize critical thinking skills to facilitate patient care	Communication skills; Critical thinking	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Communication Alexander's: Chapters 1, 2, & 19 B&K: Chapter 1

Subject Area 3: Management of Intraoperative Activities

(34% Total)

Subject Area 3.a. Patient Care and Safety (25%)

Primary General Readings:

- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Unit II: Surgical Interventions
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Section 12: Surgical Specialties
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Section IV: Nursing Care in the PACU

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Maintain patient and personnel safety by monitoring environmental hazards (e.g., chemical, fire, smoke plumes, radiation, electrical, laser)	Critical thinking skills; Expected outcomes, Regulatory guidelines; Professional standards of care; Universal Protocol; role as patient advocate, principles of patient/personnel safety (e.g., surgical smoke safety, chemical, fire, smoke plumes, radiation, electrical, laser, hazardous waste management), environmental factors (e.g., temperature, humidity, air exchange, noise, traffic patterns)	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electrosurgical Safety • Laser Safety • Environment of Care • Radiation Safety • Surgical Smoke Safety AORN Position Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Managing Disruptions, Distractions, and Noise During Perioperative Patient Care Alexander's: Chapter 2, 3, 8, & 19 B&K: Chapter 7, 13 & 20
2: Provide comfort measures to optimize behavioral responses to the surgical procedure (e.g., physiological, psychological, spiritual)	Physiologic responses to the surgical experience, preoperative patient preparation activities, patient rights, expected outcomes, pain/comfort measures; Role as a patient advocate; Environmental factors (e.g., temperature, humidity, air exchange, noise, traffic patterns)	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complementary Care Interventions Alexander's: Chapter 29 Drain's: Chapters 28 & 31

3: Prepare the surgical site per procedure and surgeon preference	Anatomy and physiology, principles of infection control/prevention , privacy, surgical procedures, aseptic technique, skin antisepsis, ergonomics and body mechanics, principles of positioning including risk factors for pressure/nerve injury	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Positioning the Patient Patient Skin Antisepsis <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 26</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 5</p>
4: Ensure the selection of appropriate procedure-specific barrier materials (e.g., lead aprons and drapes, eye goggles, laser shields)	Infection control; Regulatory guidelines ; instruments, supplies, and equipment related to surgical procedure	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Product Evaluation <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 5 & 26</p>
5: Evaluate patient response to pharmacological agents (e.g., pain management)	Pain/comfort management, pharmacology , expected outcomes related to identified intervention, medication management (e.g., medication rights, labeling); Anesthesia management and anesthetic agents; Expected outcomes related to identified interventions; Psychological responses to the surgical experience	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medication Safety Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia <p>AORN Endorsed Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CDC Position Statement on Single-Dose/Single Use Vials <p>Alexander's: Chapters 5 & 10</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 23</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 19</p>
6: Assist with anesthesia management	Anesthesia management and anesthetic agents, applying cricoid pressure, intubation, extubation, applying monitors, pharmacology	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia <p>Alexander's: Chapter 5</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 24</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, & 25</p>

7: Control environmental factors	Air exchange, humidity, positive pressure, infection control , noise, standard precautions, temperature, traffic, transmission-based precautions, professional standards of care; Regulatory guidelines; Role as a patient advocate	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design and Maintenance • Environmental Cleaning • Transmission-based Precautions <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC Interim Guidance Statement <p>AORN Endorsed Documents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Position Statement on Immunizations • Joint Commission - OR Relative Humidity <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 10, 12 & 15</p>
8: Maintain a sterile field utilizing aseptic technique	Aseptic technique, principles of infection control/ prevention , conflict management	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Attire • Hand Hygiene • Sterile Technique <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 2, 15, & 16</p>
9: Utilize equipment according to manufacturer's recommendations	Instruments, supplies, equipment use per manufacturer's instructions	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Evaluation • Sterilization <p>B&K: Chapters 2, 18, 19, & 20</p>
10: Maintain the dignity and privacy of the patient	Dignity, patient rights, privacy	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning the Patient <p>Alexander's: Chapter 2</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 3</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 8</p>
11: Protect patients' rights through advocacy	Patient advocacy, patient rights , professional standards of care	<p>Alexander's: Chapters 1 & 2</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 2</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 7</p>
12: Verify that specimens are prepared, labeled, and transported correctly	Handling, regulatory guidelines , standard and transmission-based precautions, requirements for handling specimens	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specimen Management • Autologous Tissue Management <p>Alexander's: Chapter 2</p>

		B&K: Chapters 2, 22, & 25
13: Verify that the correct implants are available	Regulatory guidelines , implants, and explants (e.g., handling, tracking, sterilization), preoperative patient preparation activities; Surgical procedures	Alexander's: Chapters 2 & 20 B&K: Chapter 28
14: Verify that the implants are correctly prepared	Implants and explants (tracking, handling, sterilization); Use of equipment use manufacturer's instructions	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilization Alexander's: Chapters 2 & 20 B&K: Chapters 28 & 40
15: Prepare explants for final disposition	Handling, tracking; Standard and transmission-based precautions; Regulatory guidelines , Sterilization	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Autologous Tissue Management • Specimen Management Alexander's: Chapter 20
16: Label solutions, medications, and medication containers	Labeling, management, rights	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication Safety Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapters 2, 23, & 25
17: Perform appropriate surgical counts	Surgical counts	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retained Surgical Items Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapter 2, 25, & 31
18: Perform Universal Protocol	Preoperative patient preparation activities, pre-procedure identification & verification, regulatory guidelines, site marking , time outs, Universal Protocol , post procedure debrief	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Communication AORN Position Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preventing Wrong- Patient, Wrong-Site, Wrong- Procedure Events Alexander's: Chapters 1 & 2 B&K: Chapters 2 & 3 The Joint Commission. <i>Universal Protocol</i> .

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TJC's Universal Protocol
19: Anticipate the need for intraoperative blood transfusion/salvage	Intraoperative blood transfusion/salvage	<p>Alexander's: Chapters 5, 12, & 28</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 5, 6, 7, 8, 31, & 44</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 14, 29, & 54</p>
20: Utilize proper body mechanics	Body mechanics, ergonomics	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safe Patient Handling & Movement <p>Alexander's: Chapter 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 4, 13, & 25</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 1</p>
21: Perform proper patient positioning appropriate for procedure	Anatomy and physiology; principles of positioning including risk factors for pressure and nerve injury	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positioning the Patient <p>Alexander's: Chapter 6</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 7 & 26</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 26, 27, 28, 29, & 30</p>
22: Intervene with impaired/disruptive behavior in patients, family members, and/or the perioperative team in accordance with facility/institutional policy	Conflict management	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Communications <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Perioperative Practice Environment <p>AORN Endorsed Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Position Statement on Incivility, Bullying, and Workplace Violence <p>Alexander's: Chapter 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 1 & 6</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 7 & 26</p>
23: Identify wound classifications	Principles of wound healing, including management of tubes, lines, and drains; wound classification	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterile Technique <p>Alexander's: Chapters 4 & 9</p>

		B&K: Chapter 29 CDC. (2025). Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event. • Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event
24: Maintain wound dressings, including tubes, lines, and drains	Drains, dressings, lines; Principles of wound healing	Alexander's: Chapter 9 B&K: Chapter 29

Subject Area 3.b. Management of Personnel, Services, and Materials (9%)

Primary General Readings:

- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Unit II: Surgical Interventions
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Section 12: Surgical Specialties
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Section IV: Nursing Care in the PACU

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Acquire needed equipment, supplies, and personnel	Proper room preparation	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Cleaning Alexander's: Chapter 1 B&K: Chapters 12 & 25
2: Assess expiration date and package integrity of products	Principles of packaging and sterilizing	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packaging Systems • Sterile Technique Alexander's: Chapters 3 & 4 B&K: Chapters 15, 17, 18, & 25
3: Implement cost-containment measures	Principles of product evaluation and cost containment, environmental stewardship (e.g., go green)	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Evaluation Alexander's: Chapters 1 & 4 B&K: Chapters 6, 17, & 25
4: Participate in product evaluation/selection	Principles of product evaluation and cost containment	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Evaluation B&K: Chapter 6
5: Provide supervision of and education to healthcare team members	Scope of practice for the interdisciplinary team, basic management techniques and	AORN. (2017). <i>AORN's Perioperative explications for the ANA Code of Ethics</i> . • AORN's Perioperative Explications for the ANA Code of Ethics

	delegation, e.g., chain of command, role of the Healthcare Industry Representative (HCIR), role of non-OR personnel in the OR	<p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation of the Registered Nurse and the Surgical Technologist to the Perioperative Setting <p>B&K: Chapter 1</p>
6: Delegate tasks to appropriate personnel according to regulatory agencies and facility policies and procedures	Delegation, basic management techniques and delegation, e.g., chain of command, scope of practice for the interdisciplinary team	<p>Alexander's: Chapter 1</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 4 & 6</p> <p>ANA. <i>Scope of practice</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Scope of Practice <p>National Council of State Boards of Nursing. <i>Delegation</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NCSBN Delegation
7: Supervise visitors	Family, non-OR personnel, students	<p>AORN Position Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Health Care Industry Representative in the Perioperative Setting • Value of Clinical Learning Activities in the Perioperative Setting in Undergraduate Curricula • Responsibility for Mentoring <p>B&K: Chapter 1</p>
8: Manage healthcare industry representative (HCIR) presence in the OR	Role of the healthcare industry representative (HCIR)	<p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Health Care Industry Representative in the Perioperative Setting <p>Alexander's: Chapter 2</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 6</p>
9: Practice environmental stewardship (e.g., go green, minimize waste)	Principles of product evaluation and cost containment	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product Evaluation • Sterilization <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Responsibility <p>Alexander's: Chapters 3 & 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 10, 12, & 13</p>

Subject Area 4: Communication and Documentation (11%)

Primary General Readings:

- *AORN Guidelines*: Information Management; Team Communication
- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Chapter 10
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Chapter 30

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Maintain accurate patient records/ documentation of all care provided (e.g., relevant facts, unusual occurrences, specimens, medications)	Documentation of all nursing interventions, including patient education; communication techniques, (e.g., critical lab values, medical condition, medications, allergies, implants/implantable devices, hand off, read back verbal orders, communication barriers, adverse events); regulatory guidelines (e.g., confidentiality); proper use of documentation tools (e.g., Electronic Health Record [EHR], downtime forms, implant records, incident/adverse events reports); documentation of the transfer of care	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapters 2, 3, 6, 7, & 25
2: Collaborate with the interdisciplinary healthcare team (e.g., nutrition, wound class, social work, visiting nurse, referrals, transportation)	Communication techniques, (e.g., critical lab values, medical condition, medications, allergies, implants/implantable devices, hand off, read back verbal orders, communication barriers, adverse events); interdisciplinary plan of care, medication reconciliation, universal protocol; proper use of	Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapters 6 & 25 Drain's: Chapters 3, 7, 8, & 26 The Joint Commission. <i>Universal Protocol</i> . TJC's Universal Protocol

	documentation tools (e.g., Electronic Health Record [EHR], downtime forms, implant records, incident/adverse events reports); interdisciplinary services for care coordination	
3: Communicate current patient status to interdisciplinary healthcare providers (e.g., critical lab values, medical condition, medications, allergies, implants/implantable devices, specimen results)	Communication techniques , (e.g., <i>critical lab values</i> , medical condition, medications , allergies , implants/implantable devices, hand off, read back verbal orders, communication barriers, adverse events); Interdisciplinary plan of care, medication reconciliation, universal protocol; Proper use of documentation tools (e.g., Electronic Health Record [HER], downtime forms, implant records, incident/adverse events reports); Interdisciplinary services for care coordination; Regulatory guidelines (e.g., confidentiality)	Alexander's: Chapters 1 & 2 B&K: Chapters 1, 3, 6, & 30 The Joint Commission. <i>National Patient Safety Goals 2025</i> . TJC's National Patient Safety Goals 2025
4: Communicate measurable patient outcomes across the continuum of care (e.g., hand offs)	Communication techniques ; Postoperative complications; Transfer of care criteria	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Communication Alexander's: Chapter 2, 3, 6, 10, 26, & 27 B&K: Chapters 3 & 6 Drain's: Chapters 26 & 27
5: Document perioperative education provided to the patient and advocate where applicable	Interviewing techniques , perioperative patient education techniques; patient postoperative follow-up communication within regulatory guidelines	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia Medication Safety

		<p>Alexander's: Chapters 10 & 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Patient education is included in specialty-specific chapters - Unit II <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 21</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 28</p>
6: Document post discharge follow up communication provided to patient	Postoperative complications, Documentation of all nursing interventions, including patient education; Patient postoperative follow- up communication within regulatory guidelines	<p>Alexander's: Chapter 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Each chapter in Unit II has discharge planning information pertinent to that specialty. <p>B&K: Chapter 30</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 3, 28, & 49</p>
7: Document preoperative and postoperative assessment	Neuro status, skin, site-surgery checklist; documentation of all nursing interventions, including patient education	<p>Alexander's: Chapters 1, 2, 26, & 30</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 7</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 2</p>
8: Document transfer of care	Transfer of care criteria; documentation of the transfer of care	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Communication <p>Alexander's: Chapters 2 & 10</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 3, 6, & 30</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 2 & 26</p>
9: Document appropriate measures to prepare and track implantable tissue and other trackable items	Implant records	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Autologous Tissue Management <p>Alexander's: Chapter 20</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 36</p>
10: Evaluate patient status to facilitate transfer to the next level of care	Home, ICU, PACU; patient postoperative follow-up communication within regulatory guidelines	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of the Patient Receiving Moderate Sedation/Analgesia <p>Alexander's: Chapter 10</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 30</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 26</p>

11. Implement effective solutions to identified patient communication barriers (e.g., translation services, hearing aids, assistive devices)	Barriers, interviewing and communication techniques	Alexander's: Chapters 7, 16, & 30 B&K: Chapters 7 & 41 Drain's: Chapters 6 & 8
12: Provide information about the patient according to HIPAA guidelines	Confidentiality, regulatory guidelines, status, updates	AORN Endorsed Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Position Statement on Inclusions of Recognized Terminologies within EHRs Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapters 2 & 3 US Department of Health and Human Services. <i>HIPPA for Professionals</i> . <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIPPA for Professionals
13: Utilize read- back for verbal orders	Communication techniques , read back verbal orders	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information Management • Medication Safety • Specimen Management • Team Communication
14: Document surgical wound classification	Wound classification	Alexander's: Chapter 9 B&K: Chapter 29 CDC. (2025). Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event

Subject Area 5: Infection Prevention and Control of the Environment, Instrumentation, & Supplies

(16%)

Primary General Readings:

- *AORN Guidelines: Design and Maintenance; Environmental Cleaning; Environment of Care; Flexible Endoscopes; High-Level Disinfection (HLD); Instrument Cleaning; Packaging Systems; Sterilization*
- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery: Chapter 4*
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique: Chapters 10, 17, & 18*
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach: Chapter 5*

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Ensure proper environmental cleaning for spills, room turnover, and/or terminal cleaning	Environmental cleaning (e.g., spills, room turnover, terminal cleaning); microbiology & infection control; standard & transmission-based precautions, including PPE & hand hygiene; professional & regulatory standards (e.g., AORN Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines, OSHA, Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation [AAMI], Association for Professionals in Infection Control [APIC]); handling & disposition of hazardous materials (e.g., chemo drugs, radioactive materials); handling & disposition of biohazard materials (e.g., blood, CJD)	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Cleaning <p>Alexander's: Chapters 4 & 9</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 12 & 15</p>

2: Ensure appropriate methods for cleaning, disinfecting, packaging, sterilizing, transporting and/or storage of instruments and reusable goods	Professional & regulatory standards (e.g., AORN Guidelines, OSHA, Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation [AAMI], Association for Professionals in Infection Control [APIC]; principles of cleaning and disinfection of instruments/reusable goods; principles of packaging and sterilizing of instruments/reusable goods; environmental conditions of sterilization and storage areas; Spaulding's Classification System	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Cleaning • High Level Disinfection (HLD) • Packaging Systems • Sterilization <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immediate Use Steam Sterilization <p>Alexander's: Chapters 4 & 8</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 1</p> <p>AAMI: https://www.aami.org/</p> <p>APIC: https://apic.org/</p>
3: Ensure appropriate methods for transporting and storage of single-use items	Principles of transporting and storage of instruments, reusable goods, and single use supplies	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilization • Packaging Systems <p>Alexander's: Chapters 4 & 8</p>
4: Maintain appropriate documentation for sterilization and disinfection	Documentation requirements for sterilization, biological and chemical monitoring; Regulatory requirements for tracking of materials and instruments brought in from outside the facility	<p>See primary readings.</p> <p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible Endoscopes • High-level Disinfection (HLD) • Sterilization • Instrument Cleaning
5: Ensure proper handling and disposition of hazardous materials (e.g., chemo drugs, hazardous materials, radioactive materials)	Environmental cleaning (e.g., spills, room turnover, terminal cleaning); Handling and disposition of hazardous materials	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment of Care • Instrument Cleaning • Radiation Safety <p>Alexander's: Chapter 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 7 & 13</p>
6: Ensure proper handling and disposition of biohazard materials (e.g., blood, CJD)	Environmental cleaning (e.g., spills, room turnover, terminal cleaning); Handling and disposition of hazardous materials	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Cleaning <p>Alexander's: Chapter 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 13 & 14</p>

		<p>US Department of Labor. <i>OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 1910.1030</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OSHA Bloodborne Pathogens Standard 1910.1030
7: Utilize appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)	Standard & transmission-based precautions, including PPE and hand hygiene; surgical attire based on surgical/perioperative zones	<p>AORN Guidelines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharps Safety • Surgical Attire • Transmission-based Precautions <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 15 & 16</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 5</p>
8: Adhere to appropriate procedures for sterilization, biological monitoring, and chemical monitoring	Principles of cleaning/disinfection of instruments and reusable goods; Principles of packaging and sterilizing of instruments and reusable goods; Documentation requirements for sterilization, biological and chemical monitoring; Spaulding's Classification System	<p>See primary readings.</p> <p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilization
9: Monitor environmental conditions of sterilization and storage areas	Environmental conditions of sterilization and storage areas; Principles of transporting and storage of instruments, reusable goods and single use supplies	<p>See primary readings.</p> <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HVAC Interim Guidance Statement <p>AORN Endorsed Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint Commission - OR Relative Humidity <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 18</p>
10: Track materials and instruments brought in from outside the facility	Regulatory requirements for tracking of materials and instruments brought in from outside facility	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sterilization <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of the Health Care Representative in the Perioperative Setting
11: Adhere to guidelines regarding proper surgical attire based on restricted, semi-restricted, and non-restricted zones	Surgical attire based on surgical/perioperative zones	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Surgical Attire <p>Alexander's: Chapter 4</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 10</p>

12: Adhere to proper hand hygiene guidelines, including surgical hand scrubbing	Standard and transmission-based precautions, including PPE and hand hygiene	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hand Hygiene Alexander's: Chapter 4 B&K: Chapter 16 Drain's: Chapter 5
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Subject Area 6: Emergency Situations

10%

Primary Chapter Readings:

- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Chapter 28
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Chapter 13 & 31
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Chapters 54 & 57

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Identify emergency situations, including difficult airway, robotic	Difficult airway; Robotics; Emergency management and roles of interdisciplinary healthcare team members	See primary readings.
2: Perform nursing interventions for malignant hyperthermia (MH)	Interventions; Pathophysiology; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient Temperature Management Alexander's: Chapters 5 & 26 B&K: Chapters 8, 24, 27, & 31 Drain's: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 23, 29, 43, & 53 MHAUS website: https://www.mhaus.org/
3: Perform nursing interventions for anaphylaxis	Antibiotic, blood, immune response, latex; Pathophysiology; Interventions; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	Alexander's: Chapters 3, 4, & 5 B&K: Chapters 13 & 14 Drain's: Chapters 18, 29, & 54
4: Perform nursing interventions for cardiac arrest	Interventions; Pathophysiology; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimally Invasive Surgery • Positioning the Patient • Transmission-Based Precautions Alexander's: Chapter 5 B&K: Chapters 3, 7, 13, 24, 30, & 31 Drain's: Chapters 4 & 57
5: Perform nursing interventions for trauma	Interventions; Pathophysiology; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	Alexander's: Chapters 26 & 28 B&K: Chapters 3, 6, 7, & 8 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section 12: Surgical Specialties - contains a section on trauma for each specialty.

		Drain's: Chapter 54
6: Perform nursing interventions for hemorrhage	Interventions; Pathophysiology; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	Alexander's: Chapters 10, 21, 25, & 28 B&K: Chapter 31 Drain's: Chapter 29
7: Perform nursing interventions for local anesthetic systemic toxicity (LAST)	Interventions; Pathophysiology; Roles of interdisciplinary team members	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care of the Patient Receiving Local-only Anesthesia Alexander's: Chapter 5 B&K: Chapter 24 Drain's: Chapter 24
8: Function as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team	Roles of interdisciplinary team members	AORN Guideline: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team Communication Alexander's: Chapter 2 B&K: Chapters 6 & 25 Drain's: Chapter 3
9: Safeguard patients and members of the healthcare team from environmental hazards and during disasters (e.g., fire, toxic fumes, natural disasters, terrorism, active shooter)	Environmental hazards; Fire and laser safety; Toxic fumes; Natural disasters; Terrorism and mass casualties	AORN Guidelines: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Electrosurgical Safety Environment of Care Environmental Cleaning Surgical Smoke Safety Alexander's: Chapters 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, 14, 19, & 20 B&K: Chapters 2, 6, 13, 14, & 20 Drain's: Chapter 56

Subject Area 7: Professional Accountability (6%)

General Chapter Readings:

- AORN. (2017). *Perioperative explications for ANA Code of Ethics*. Found at www.aorn.org, (member access only)
- *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*: Chapters 1 & 2
- *Berry & Kohn's Operating Room Technique*: Chapters 2, 3, 4, & 6
- *Drain's perianesthesia nursing: A critical care approach*: Chapter 8

Topic	Key Words	Additional Readings
1: Function within scope of practice	Regulatory standards and voluntary guidelines (e.g., AORN Scope & Standards, AORN Guidelines, OSHA, ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Explications for Perioperative Nurses, state Nurse Practice Act); Scope of practice	<p>AORN. (2017). <i>AORN's Perioperative explications for the ANA Code of Ethics</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AORN's Perioperative Explications for the ANA Code of Ethics <p>ANA. <i>Scope of practice</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Scope of Practice <p>American Nurses Association (ANA) & the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)]. (2019). <i>Guidelines for Nursing Delegation</i>. Joint Statement on Delegation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines for Nursing Delegation <p>Alexander's: Chapters 1, 2, & 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 3</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 2 & 7</p>
2: Seek assistance for recognized personal limitations	Personal accountability	<p>B&K: Chapters 1, 2, 3, 4, & 6</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 4</p>
3: Report impaired/disruptive behavior in interdisciplinary healthcare team	Responsibilities regarding impaired and/or disruptive behavior (patient/family, interdisciplinary healthcare team members)	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Communication <p>AORN Position Statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Perioperative Practice Environment • Criminalization of Human Errors in the Perioperative Setting <p>AORN Endorsed Document:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANA Position Statement on Incivility, Bullying, & Workplace Violence <p>Alexander's: Chapter 3</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 1 & 6</p>
4: Uphold ethical and professional standards	Patients' rights; Regulatory standards and voluntary guidelines (e.g., AORN Scope & Standards, AORN Guidelines, OSHA, ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Explications for Perioperative Nurses, State Nurse Practice Act)	<p>ANA. (2025). <i>Code of ethics for nurses</i>. Author. (Read-only link):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ANAs Code of Ethics for Nurses <p>AORN. (2017). <i>AORN's Perioperative explications for the ANA Code of Ethics</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AORNs Perioperative Explications for the ANA Code of Ethics <p>National Council of State Boards of Nursing. <i>Find Your Nurse Practice Act</i>.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Find Your Nurse Practice Act <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 3</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 8</p>
5: Utilize resources for personal growth	Resources for professional growth and personal accountability	<p>See primary readings.</p> <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perioperative Nursing Certification <p>Alexander's: Chapter 1</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 4</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 3 & 7</p>
6: Participate in quality improvement activities	Principles of evidence-based practice; Research principles; Performance improvement	<p>Alexander's: Chapter 1</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 2 & 6</p> <p>Drain's: Chapters 3 & 9</p>
7: Participate in interdisciplinary teams	Committees; Principles of shared governance; Staff education	<p>AORN Guideline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Communication <p>AORN Position Statement:</p> <p>Role of the Health Care Representative in the Perioperative Setting</p> <p>B&K: Chapters 4 & 6</p>

		Drain's: Chapter 3
8: Participate in professional organizations	Resources for professional growth and personal accountability	<p>Alexander's: Chapter 2</p> <p>B&K: Chapter 2</p> <p>Drain's: Chapter 2</p> <p>Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aami.org/ <p>Association for periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aorn.org/ <p>American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses (ASPA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.aspan.org/ <p>Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://apic.org/ <p>Association for Nursing Professional Development (ANPD):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.anpd.org/ <p>Healthcare Sterile Processing Association (HSPA) (Formally IAHCSPM):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://myhspa.org/