



NATIONAL OPERATION ROOM NURSING AUDIT (NORNA)
ELEMENT 5 : PERIOPERATIVE CONTINUUM OF CARE

5.8 SPONGES, SHARPS AND INSTRUMENT COUNT

1. INTRODUCTION

It is a systematic method of accounting for items used during surgery. All sponges, sharps and instruments are counted preoperatively, intraoperatively (before closure of any cavity, peritoneum) and before skin closure. This is in compliance with patient safety practice in OR.

2. STANDARD

No loss or missing sponges, sharps and instruments identified during surgery.

3. OBJECTIVES

- 3.1 To ensure nurses perform correct counts on sponges, sharps and instruments preoperatively, intraoperatively (before closure of any cavity, peritoneum), and before skin closure.
- 3.2 To ensure patient safety by preventing retention of sponges, sharps and instruments in the body.
- 3.3 To ensure accurate and complete documentation of sponges, sharps and instruments used during surgery.

4. CRITERIA

Structure	Process	Outcome
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Swab and instrument count form. (Perioperative checklist SSSL POCL VER 2.0) 2. Instrument trolley 3. Sterile Sets and supplementary instruments as required. 4. Sponges 5. Sharps 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Place sterile sets and supplementary items required according to surgery 2. Perform preoperative (initial) count of sponges, sharps and instrument correctly by scrub nurse and circulating nurse. 3. Document preoperative correct counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse. 4. Perform intra-operative count of sponges, sharps and instrument correctly by scrub nurse and circulating nurse before closure of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - cavity within cavity - peritoneum 5. Inform surgeon of correct sponges, sharps and instrument counts. 6. Document correct intra-operative counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse. 7. Perform correct postoperative count of sponges, sharps and 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All count of sponges, sharps and instruments are correct. • Documentation in swab & instruments count form is accurate and complete.

	<p>instruments before skin closure by scrub nurse and circulating nurse.</p> <p>8. Inform surgeon of correct post operative sponges, sharps and instrument counts.</p> <p>9. Document correct post operative counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse.</p> <p>10. Scrub nurse and circulating nurse document name and signature in the swabs & instrument count form</p> <p>11. Nurse place perioperative checklist together with the patient's medical record.</p>	
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5. METHODOLOGY

- 5.1 Design : Direct observation of scrub nurse and circulating nurse performing the procedures.
- 5.2 Setting : All Operating Rooms (OR)
- 5.3 Inclusion criteria : All surgeries that require counting of sponges, sharps and instruments.
- 5.4 Exclusion criteria : None
- 5.5 Population : All Scrub and circulating nurses
- 5.6 Sample Design : Convenient sampling
- 5.7 Sample size : 30% of scrub /circulating nurse working in Hospital Pakar Major and 50% Hospital Pakar Minor.
- 5.8 Time frame : 2 months
- 5.9 Instrument : Audit Form NORNA E5 AF 5.8 – One audit form for one observation

6. DEFINITION OF OPERATIONAL TERMS

6.1 Swab & Instrument Count Form

It is a form designed for documentation of all sponges, sharps and instruments used during surgery.

6.2 Scrub Nurse

A nurse who assists the surgeon during surgery and responsible for the handling of sponges, sharps and instruments used.

6.3 Circulating nurse

A member of the surgical team, responsible for assisting the scrub nurses in establishing and documenting accurate counts of sponges, sharps and instruments used during surgery.

6.4 Sterile Sets and Instrument

Collective number of sterile surgical instruments required for the surgery.

6.5 Sponges

Sponges include raytex gauzes, abdominal packs, lahey swabs, tonsil swabs and others which can be detectable by x-ray (radiopaque) or plain sponges used for absorbing blood and fluid, protecting tissues, applying pressure or traction and dissecting tissue.

6.6 Sharps

Sharps include all traumatic needles and scapel blades used during surgery.

6.7 Documentation

Is defining as manual writing record or electronic record as evidence for sponges, sharps and instrument documentation

6.8 Preoperative (Initial) count

Sponges, sharps and instruments are counted before the operation commenced.

6.9 Intraoperative count

Sponges, sharps and instruments being counted before closure of cavity within cavity and before closure of peritoneum.

6.10 Post operative count

Sponges, sharps and instruments that are being counted before skin closure.

7. SCORE

Compliance of Sponge, Sharps and Instrument Count

7.1 Compliance score: 100%

7.2 Technical Skill – 100%

7.3 Documentation - 100%

7.4 Non-compliance : <100%

8. Audit Form

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1. STANDARD

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Date of Audit:

Locality:

Auditor :-

Auditee(Scrub Nurse) :-.....

Auditee(Circulating Nurse):-.....

Procedure:-.....

NB. Instruction for Auditors

To tick [✓] at the appropriate column.

S/NO	ITEM	SOURCE OF INFORMATION	YES	NO	N/A
T1.	Place sterile sets and supplementary items required according to surgery	Observe nurse.			
T2	Perform preoperative (initial) count of sponges, sharps and instruments correctly by scrub nurse and circulating nurse.	Listen/Observed nurse			
D3	Document preoperative correct counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse.	Observed nurse and check written document.			
T4	Perform intra-operative count of sponges, sharps and instruments correctly by scrub nurse and circulating nurse before closure of :				
	T.4.1 - Extra count (cavity within cavity)	Listen/Observed nurse			
	T.4.2- 2 nd Count (peritoneum & etc.)	Listen/Observed nurse			
T5	Inform surgeon of correct sponges, sharps and instrument counts.	Listen/Observed nurse			
D6	Document correct intra-operative counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse.	Observed nurse and check written document.			
T7	Perform correct postoperative count of sponges, sharps and instruments before skin closure(final count) by scrub nurse and circulating nurse.	Listen/Observed nurse			
T8	Inform surgeon of correct post operative sponges, sharps and instrument counts.	Listen/Observed nurse			
D9	Document correct post operative counts in swab & instrument count form by circulating nurse.	Observed nurse and check written document.			
D10.	Scrub nurse and circulating nurse document name and signature in the swabs & instrument count form	Observed nurse and check written document.			
T11.	Nurse place perioperative checklist together with the patient's medical record.	Observe nurse.			

AUDIT REPORT

(please [√] the appropriate box)

RATING

Task	Conformance	Non Conformance
Technical		
Documentation		

REMARKS

Auditor (name and signature)

**Calculation: $\frac{\text{Item conformance}}{\text{Total item} - \text{item N/A}} \times 100$