

Module Specification

Module Summary Information

1	Module Title	Developing Surgical First Assistance
2	Module Credits	20
3	Module Level	Level 7
4	Module Code	LBR7522
5	Semester Taught	2

6	Module Overview
<p>Welcome</p> <p>This module allows you, a registered nurse or ODP, with a minimum of 12 months post-qualifying experience, to respond to the demands of perioperative practice. The role of the Surgical First Assistant is now widely accepted in perioperative practice within the NHS and Independent Healthcare Sector. As a registered practitioner, the Surgical First Assistant provides continuous competent and dedicated skilled assistance under the direct supervision of the operating surgeon throughout the procedure whilst not performing any form of surgical intervention (PCC 2012).</p> <p>You will build upon your prior knowledge, skills and experience to develop in the role of the surgical first assistant and work safely and effectively as a member of the wider surgical team. You will mature as a critical thinking practitioner as you prepare to provide competent and skilled surgical assistance to the operating surgeon under supervision.</p> <p>This module aligns with the Professional Practice Programme philosophy and is designed to be flexible and practice-led. You will have the opportunity to develop skills of enquiry, reflection and problem solving. A blended learning approach is taken, incorporating classroom sessions, skills workshops and online activities via Moodle in line with the university's learning and teaching strategy. You will be encouraged to think critically and share practice experiences with your fellow students to explore your prior experience and develop future learning needs in relation to acquiring the enhanced surgical skills required for safe surgical first assistant practice. As well as engaging in both directed and self-directed learning activities, you will be an active partner in your own learning and development and in return you will receive regular feedback and feedforward aimed at developing your academic skills. You will have the opportunity to identify learning opportunities and discuss your progress with the module and practice placement partners for the duration of this module and for career-long learning.</p> <p>Through engagement with a practice placement, the student will gain first-hand experience of working in an interprofessional team and will value the contribution of all team members to patient care. Working and learning alongside other disciplines will allow students to become competent in the Surgical First Assistant role whilst remaining aware of professional and legal responsibilities and maintaining a professional identity under a framework of transparency.</p> <p>You will be supported in clinical practice by a mentor (Surgeon, Surgical Care Practitioner or SFA) who will facilitate your learning in practice to help you achieve the minimum 100 hours of clinical practice and attain the SFA competencies required by the end of the module. The mentor is responsible for overseeing the student experience in the surgical setting, liaising with the module co-ordinator as required.</p>	

7	Indicative Content
<p>The self-directed content on the module allows you to build upon your prior knowledge and experience as a registered practitioner. The one taught day [online] and Moodle content are designed to allow you to examine your SFA role as you care for patients undergoing surgery.</p> <p>You will explore:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • patient preparation and assessment • professional, legal and ethical aspects of the role including informed consent • skin prep and draping • the principles of surgery • non-technical surgical skills • tissue handling and manipulation including retraction • haemostasis • assisting with wound closure • camera holding • postoperative management • academic writing 	

8	Module Learning Outcomes
<p>On successful completion of the module, students will be able to:</p>	
1	Utilising academic skills, retrieve and apply appropriate evidence and knowledge to formulate critical debate required at level 7.
2	Display a critical awareness and reasoning of current perioperative evidence to promote patient safety and inform surgical first assistant practice based upon national and international guidance and local protocol.
3	Demonstrate a conceptual understanding and application of the complex physical, psychological and social needs of patients in the acute surgical phase to plan, deliver and evaluate care as a member of the wider surgical team.
4	Present a cohesive argument to support the Surgical First Assistant role in the context of complex perioperative practice.
5	Demonstrate competence in the Surgical First Assistant role through practical assessment.

9	Module Assessment		
Learning Outcome Number <i>(from table 8)</i>	Coursework	Exam	In-Person
1, 2 & 3	100%		
4			Pass/Fail

10 Breakdown Learning and Teaching Activities		
Learning Activities	Hours	Details of Duration, Frequency and other comments
Scheduled Learning (SL) includes online lectures and workshops as specified in timetable	7	7 hours online module launch and lectures.
Directed Learning (DL) includes placements, work-based learning, peer group learning external visits, on-line activity, Graduate+, peer learning, as directed on VLE.	150 hours	100 work-based learning. 2 hours online tutorial support. 48 hours Moodle directed learning.
Private Study (PS) includes preparation for exams	43 hours	Literature searching, reading, critical thinking and applying this to completion of module summative assessment.
Total Study Hours:	200 hours	

11	Key Texts and Online Learning Resources
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No books are recommended as must-purchase titles, due to the individual nature of academic skill development, diversity of clinical backgrounds of students completing this module, and the well-resourced library. The following books/ articles/ reports are highly recommended and will be referred to throughout the module:

Highly recommended reading

Burkitt, H. G; Quick, C R. (2008) Essential Surgery: Problems, Diagnosis and Management 4th Edition Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.

Kirk, R. M. (2010) Basic Surgical Techniques 6th edition Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone.

Leeper, D J; Whitaker, I. (2010) Postoperative Complications Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Nair, R; Holroyd, D J (2011) Handbook of Surgical Consent Oxford: Oxford University Press.

The Perioperative Care Collaborative, (2012). Position Statement: The Surgical First Assistant.

Whalan, C (2006) Assisting at Surgical Operations: A Practical Guide Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Recommended reading

Baker, C.R., Reese, G. Teo, J.T.H. (2010) Rapid Surgery [2nd edition] Oxford: Wiley Blackwell. (e-book available).

Beauchamp, T L; Childress, J F (2009) Principles of Biomedical Ethics New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Dimond B (2015) Legal Aspects of Nursing and Healthcare 7th Edition Harlow; Pearson.

Garden, J.O. & Parks, R.W. (2017) [editors] Principles and Practice of Surgery 7th Edition Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Oakley, M; County, B; Radford, M (2004) Advancing Perioperative Practice Cheltenham: Nelson Thornes.

Rothrock, J C (2007) Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery 13th Edition Edinburgh: Elsevier Mosby.

Servant, C; Purkiss, S; Hughes, J (2002) Positioning patients for Surgery London: Greenwich Medical Media.

Bartter, Karen (2001) Ethical Issues in Advanced Nursing Practice Oxford: Butterworth-Heinemann.

Background reading

Hall, S., Quick, J., Hall, A. & Jones, A., (2014.) Surgical Assistance: Who Can Help? Annals of Royal College of Surgeons of England (Suppl), July, Volume 96, pp. 244 - 246.

Quick, J. & Hall, S., (2014). Non-medical surgical assistants: a review. The Clinical Services Journal, June. Pp. 75 - 78.