

Annual Competencies Assessment Year: 2008

Recommended Practices for Electrosurgery Due June 6, 2008

**Domain(s): Critical Thinking
Clinical/Technical**

**Director: Carol Smith. Managers: Nancy Jones, Sally
Robinson**

Department(s): Surgical Services

**Position(s): Staff RN, Scrub Technologist, Endo RN,
Endo Tech**

Indicators Used to Develop Competency (Describe)

1. Staff recommendation.
2. 2008 AORN Recommended Practice “Personnel should demonstrate competence in the use of the ESU and accessories.”
3. The National Fire Protection Association has identified ESUs as high risk equipment, warranting training and retraining of personnel.
4. Educational need as identified by the educator.

Competency Statement

1. Understand basic principles of electricity and its application to electrosurgery.
2. Able to discuss electrosurgical technologies.
3. Apply recommended practices to ensure patient safety.

Critical Elements

1. Understand the properties of electricity, current, circuit, impedance/resistance, voltage, power, dispersal, and waveforms.
2. Able to differentiate between monopolar & bipolar, electrosurgical and radio-frequency technologies, grounding system, isolated system, contact quality monitoring, tissue response technology, and vessel sealing technology.
3. Describe general safety precautions and the “**AORN 2008 Recommended Practice for Electrosurgery and Guidance Statement: Care of the Perioperative Patient with an Implanted Electronic Device.**”

