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.”
Learning Activities

1. Attend the May 6th Surgical Services Presentation from 0800 – 0900 on Electrosurgery in Conference Room A & B or watch the DVD of the presentation. (It can be checked out from your departmental Educator or the Library after 5/6/08.)
2. Review educational materials titled, “Electrosurgery Competency” located in the Surgery Education Room. “Perioperative Nursing Clinics – Volume 2 Number 2 June 2007 – Electrosurgery.” This can also be located in the library.
3. Read AORN’s 2008 Guidance Statement: Care of the Perioperative Patient With an Implanted Electronic Device.”
4. Read AORN’s 2008 “Recommended Practice for Electrosurgery.”
5. Read Periop 101 Glossary terms for electrosurgery attached to this packet.

Methods of Verification

Option 1

1. Attend the Electrosurgery presentation on 5/6/08 from 0800 – 0900 in Conference Room A & B. (Presentation will be video taped and can be checked out from your Educator)
2. Completion of post test with 80%. *Please do not attempt post test until after the presentation.

<<<<<<<<<<<OR>>>>>>>>>>>>>

Option 2

1. Watch the Electrosurgery presentation DVD, which can be obtained from your Educator or the Library after 5/6/08.
2. Completion of post test with 80%

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Option 3

Alternative method of verification as approved by the Educator.