Surgical Technologist and Nurses: Working Together in Education

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What brought me here?

- Mother
- When I was 12 years old (1985)
- Community College
- Local Hospital
- Community College
My Observation, Experience, and Perception of the Matter!
Why do I think this?
Starting Surgical Technology Program:

- Reality, opened my eyes
- Resistance with nursing
- Started with bare minimum
- Gain trust and respect
- Kill them with kindness and donated supplies
- Find the one person who will work with you, not against you
- Have a Director who will have your back
SOMETIMES FEELS LIKE

President

Dean

Health Careers Division Director

Nursing

Nursing Faculty & Staff

Other Programs, Faculty & Staff

Students
Nursing Programs:

- Uses different terminologies
  - Ex. Gowning & gloving
- Teach scrub skill & check-off, not AST or AORN standards
- Cover only very small section of perioperative material, if at all
- Some programs it is an elective
- Uses OR as a place to send students
- Do not introduce nursing students to surgery department properly
  - Attire, red line, etc.
In their defense,
1960s
- Scrub role switching from nursing to medical technician

1970s
- Education became formalized and community colleges started offering programs

1981
- The first edition of the Core Curriculum for Surgical Technology was published

Currently, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas (since 2009) have requirements in law, based on graduation from an accredited surgical technology program and surgical technologist certification.

References:
- www.ast.org
- www.alliedhealthworld.com/surgical-technologist.html
Scrub Techs in our area (East Texas) up until 2009 were/are:

- LVNs, on the job trained in the OR
- Transferees: Unit Secretaries, CNAs, or Sterile Supply Techs, all on the job trained in the OR
- And some with no previous healthcare experiences, certifications, or higher education and were on the job trained in the OR
Who is doing the training and where are they getting their information?
Why is this so important, because...

What I thought I knew:

- Equipment
- Positioning
- Prepping
- Draping
- Handling and care of instruments
- How to dust and mop

What I did not know:

- How and why did the equipment work (ex. ESU)
- Proper positioning
- Proper prepping
- Proper draping
- Proper handling and care of instruments
- Proper cleaning and disinfection

and SO much more!
NURSES

- Formal programs
- Taught using *nursing* standards of practice (per State)
- Competent via completion of program and licensure
- Supported by State Board

SCRUB TECHS

- Formal training through a program
- Taught AST standards of practice (National)
- Competent via completion of program and certification
- Supported by National Organization
What?
Where?
When?
Why?
How?
IDEA
Hmmmm...
Working Together

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY & NURSING INSTRUCTORS

- Be a team of programs (not IAAN)
- Use each other as a resource
- Teach in each others programs
- Get the students from different programs to work together in labs
- Help with each others budgets
- Share ideas & supplies
- Collaborate about processes, forms, etc.
SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY & NURSING STUDENTS

- Reference AST & AORN standards of practices for the Surgery Environment (be consistent in practice)
- Collaborate on skills check-offs and competencies; work together in lab setting (increase knowledge & respect for each others profession)
- Require nursing and Surg Tech students to attend training/in-services together (team building)
- Teach students the differences between skills and terminologies (increase awareness & better understanding)
When education is not consistent:

* Causes confusion
* Creates friction
* Decreases moral
* Decreases teamwork
When education is consistent:

* Increases efficiency
* Increases proficiency
* Increases cohesiveness
* Increases teamwork
"Ice Ice Baby"
Yo, Peeps, Let's kick it!

Ice Ice Baby, Ice Ice Baby
All right stop, Collaborate and listen
I am here with a awesome proposition
This is something I think is rightly
Working together day and nightly
We must stop and think about consistency
Try to increase proficiency
To the extreme we will rock as a team
Light up health care, we can do anything!

Dance, caring is what we do best
Putting our bodies and minds to the test
Learning and working together is a must
So all of this won’t be a big bust
Love it or leave it, You better gain way
You better get on board, There ain’t no time to play
If there was a problem, Yo, we can solve it
Check out the teamwork while we revolve it

Ice Ice Baby Vanilla, Ice Ice Baby Vanilla
Ice Ice Baby Vanilla, Ice Ice Baby Vanilla
Instead of doing or feeling like this,
Try this!

NURSING

Students

PATIENTS

SURGICAL

TECHNOLOGIST
THANK YOU
References:

- http://www.thefreedictionary.com
- www.ast.org
- www.youtube.com
- Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist, A Positive Care Approach, 4th edition
- Texas State Assembly and www.texasstateassembly.org