



## **Arizona Transition to Practice Program for New to Specialty Nurses – operating room**

To help nurses who are interested in transitioning to a role in the operating room (OR), the Arizona Transition to Practice Program is offering access to Periop 101: A Core Curriculum™ from the **Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)**. The comprehensive, standardized education program is for registered nurses entering the perioperative specialty. Learners participate in the course as an independent study.

This program provides a consistent and current foundation of knowledge through online learning, along with clinical experience. It is designed to meet the latest evidence-based AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice and includes graduate-level QSEN competencies.

### **The educational content includes:**

- **Online learning:** Covering comprehensive perioperative knowledge through diverse learning formats.
- **Graduate-level QSEN competencies:** Ensuring that nurses are equipped with advanced quality and safety competencies.
- **Recommended reading and video resources:** Pages from Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery, and URLs for the AORN bookstore, guideline essentials, videos, toolkits and position statements.
- **Final exam study guides:** Found within the individual corresponding modules.
- **Orientation resources:** Recommendations for download to help with orientation efforts.
- **Preceptor guidelines and resources:** Clinical objectives and competency assessment points.

### **This program offers the following specialized tracks:**

- **Operating room (OR):** To prepare nurses for the unique environment of the OR, focusing on critical skills and knowledge required for surgical procedures.
  - The content includes 23 modules covering topics such as:
    - Aseptic techniques and infection control
    - Surgical instrumentation and equipment handling
    - Patient positioning and safety measures
    - Interoperative patient monitoring and support
    - Post-operative care and recovery room procedures



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- 39.8 contact hours (CH)/ambulatory education units (AEU) and 10.8 infection prevention contact hours (IPCH).
- **Cesarean section (C-section):** To equip nurses with specialized knowledge or perioperative care in obstetric settings, specifically C-sections.
  - The content includes 23 modules covering topics such as:
    - Maternal and fetal assessment
    - Anesthesia considerations for cesarean deliveries
    - Surgical techniques and procedures specific to C-sections
    - Post-operative care and management for both mother and baby
    - Emergency protocols for obstetric complications
  - 36.4 CH/AEU and 9.7 IPCH.
- **Ambulatory surgery center (ASC):** To provide nurses with the necessary skills for efficient and effective care in the ambulatory surgery setting.
  - The content includes 24 modules covering topics such as:
    - Pre-operative patient assessment and education
    - Techniques for fast-tracking surgical procedures
    - Management of outpatient surgical procedures
    - Post-operative care and discharge planning
    - Handling specific surgical interventions common in ASCs
  - 40.3 CH/AEU and 10.8 IPCH.
- **Preparing for the scrub role:** Provides advanced training tailored specifically for perioperative nurses transitioning to a scrubbing/sterile field role.
  - The program encompasses detailed instruction on:
    - Scrubbing, gowning, gloving and draping: Techniques for maintaining sterility
    - Instrumentation: Understanding and handling surgical instruments.
    - Suture basics: Fundamental skills in suturing
    - Preprocedural responsibilities: Preparing for surgical procedures
    - Procedural responsibilities: Managing the sterile field and coordinating with the perioperative team
    - Postprocedural responsibilities: Ensuring safety and efficiency after procedures
  - 3 CH/AEU.
- **Preparing the preceptor course:** This certificate-of-completion program is designed to equip preceptors for their vital role in orienting new registered nurses to the surgical environment. The program covers:
  - Adult learning theories and generational learning behaviors



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- Specific preceptor processes tailored to the learner's level
- Practical tools for feedback, evaluation and transition to practice
- The one module with four chapters provides 1.25 CH.

**Questions about this program?** Email [TPprogram@azhha.org](mailto:TPprogram@azhha.org).