

Students enrolled in the Surgical Technology program should be aware that participation in both laboratory and clinical education involves exposure to occupational risks inherent to the healthcare environment. These risks are comparable to those encountered by practicing surgical technologists and other perioperative personnel.

Exposure to Bloodborne Pathogens

Students may be exposed to blood and body fluids that could contain infectious agents, including but not limited to:

- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV)
- Hepatitis B Virus (HBV)
- Hepatitis C Virus (HCV)

Exposure may occur through:

- Needle sticks or sharps injuries
- Cuts from contaminated instruments
- Contact with non-intact skin or mucous membranes

Students are required to adhere to standard precautions, utilize appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), and follow institutional infection control policies.

Exposure to Infectious Diseases

Clinical environments may involve exposure to communicable diseases, including respiratory, airborne, and contact-transmitted illnesses. Students are expected to comply with all isolation protocols and vaccination requirements as mandated by clinical affiliates and public health guidelines.

Physical Hazards

Participation in surgical procedures may involve:

- Prolonged standing
- Lifting, pushing, or transferring patients and equipment
- Exposure to radiation (e.g., fluoroscopy)
- Exposure to surgical smoke and chemical agents

Students must follow safety protocols, including proper body mechanics and use of protective equipment such as lead aprons when indicated.

Chemical Hazards

Students may encounter hazardous substances, including:

- Sterilizing agents (e.g., ethylene oxide)
- Disinfectants
- Medications and anesthetic gases

Appropriate handling procedures and safety data guidelines must be followed at all times.

Psychological and Emotional Stress

The surgical environment can be high-stress and fast-paced. Students may experience emotional strain related to:

- Patient outcomes
- Exposure to trauma or critical situations
- Demanding clinical expectations

Support resources are available through the institution for students experiencing stress or emotional challenges.

Sharps Safety and Injury Prevention

Strict adherence to sharps safety protocols is required to minimize the risk of injury. Any exposure incident must be reported immediately according to program and clinical site policy.

Compliance Requirements

To participate in clinical education, students must:

- Maintain current immunizations and health screenings
- Complete required safety trainings
- Demonstrate competency in infection control and sterile technique

Failure to comply with safety policies may result in removal from the clinical setting.

Acknowledgment

By enrolling in the Surgical Technology program, students acknowledge awareness of these occupational risks and agree to comply with all safety policies and procedures to minimize risk to themselves and others.

Student Printed Name

Date

Student Signature