



Dearbhú Cáilíochta
agus Cáilíochtaí Éireann
Quality and
Qualifications Ireland

**DRAFT Defined Award Standards for
Operating Theatre Support Care Skills
(Minor Award, NFQ Level 5)**

Award Title	Operating Theatre Support Care Skills
Teideal as Gaeilge	[To be translated]
Award Class	Minor Award
Level	NFQ Level 5 EQF Level 4
Credit Value	15 FET Credits
Mandatory/Elective	Elective

Purpose

This award is intended to equip the learner with the knowledge, skill, and competence required to perform effectively as support staff in the operating theatre department, working under the guidance of a registered nurse.

Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion, learners will be able to:

1. Explore the principles of safe practice in the operating department environment, including infection prevention and control, patient dignity, and consent.
2. Demonstrate competence, under instruction, in preparing, positioning, and supporting patient's peri and post-surgical procedures, in line with evidence-based protocols.
3. Apply theoretical knowledge to assist in maintaining a sterile field, ensuring the integrity of surgical asepsis in collaboration with interdisciplinary team members.
4. Interpret and respond appropriately, of changes in patient condition during perioperative care, utilising knowledge of normal and abnormal physiology.
5. Communicate effectively and empathetically with patients, families, and healthcare professionals, adapting approach to meet the specific needs of the perioperative context.

6. Describe legal, ethical, and professional guidelines related to confidentiality, consent to treatment, dignity, respect, and accountability.
7. Implement accurate documentation and reporting procedures in accordance with best practice, ensuring continuity of safe and sustainable care and legal compliance.
8. Utilise reflective practice to identify areas for personal and professional growth in operating department support, incorporating feedback and clinical experience.

Access

To access programmes leading to the above awards, learners should have achieved the knowledge, skills, and competence associated with NFQ Level 4 in the areas of literacy, numeracy, digital skills, communication, and personal effectiveness.

Learners must be able to communicate effectively with colleagues in the workplace through speaking, listening, reading, and writing. This may be through a formal qualification or relevant life and work experience demonstrating equivalent learning.

Transfer

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to transfer to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the same level of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Progression

Achievement of this award will enable the learner to progress to other appropriate programmes leading to awards at the next or higher levels of the National Framework of Qualifications.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

Learners may be assessed based on their prior knowledge and experience. This must be conducted in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures of the provider.

Specific Validation Requirements:

- Garda Vetting.
- Access to clinical learning environment (work base learning) with up-to-date equipment, fixtures and fittings, cleaning agents and materials, disinfectants, antiseptics, sterilisers, waste disposal and personal protective equipment.
- Access to an environment and equipment replicating the clinical setting (classroom).
- Work-based learning hours to be set in the application for validation.

Sector Specific Requirements:

- CPR and use an automated external defibrillator (AED).
- Assisted Mobility Training (Safe People Moving and Positioning Training) in accordance with current legislation and workplace health and safety policies.