

General Surgery Learning Opportunities

BSc Midwifery Programme

The aim of the surgical placement is to provide the student midwife with an opportunity to gain knowledge in caring for patients in the surgical setting. The student midwife will work under the supervision of a registered nurse.

Demonstrate an awareness of the physical, psychological, social, cultural and spiritual needs of patients with surgical conditions.

Identify and demonstrate the principles of effective communication.

Identify diagnostic or screening tests commonly used in the surgical setting.

Observe and participate in the preoperative preparation of patients for surgical procedures.

Participate in the assessment, planning, implementation and evaluation of holistic care for patients with surgical conditions. This may include:

- pre-operative assessment
- admission assessment of patients (elective and emergency) to the surgical day ward/surgical ward
- assist with the personal hygiene needs of patients
- the principles of aseptic technique and standard precautions
- post operative care including monitoring of vital signs including use of early warning score and pain management
- wound management including use of appropriate assessment frameworks
- removal of clips, sutures and drains
- discharge planning for a surgical patient

Expand knowledge of the potential complications of surgery including signs, symptoms and treatment (haemorrhage, shock, Deep Vein Thrombosis (DVT) and infection).

Consider the nurse's role in multidisciplinary team working including referral to clinical nurse specialists and other health care professionals when planning care with patients in the surgical setting.

Identify some of the commonly used drugs for surgical patients including drug dosage, route of administration and side effects.

Some of the learning opportunities in the operating theatre placement may overlap with opportunities outlined above