



National Center for Competency Testing

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Tech in Surgery-Certified Exam Content Outline

Approximate % of Exam	Content Categories
7.6%	Medical Terms and Definitions
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Foundations of word structures (roots, prefixes, suffixes)• Standard medical/pharmaceutical abbreviations and symbols• Terms re: surgical procedures• Terms re: common diseases, common pathology
7.6%	Anatomy and Physiology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Directional and positional terms• Body systems: organization, identification, function• System pathologies (including etiology)• Normal ranges for vital signs (all patient types)
3.6%	Asepsis and Infection Control
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infectious processes: acquisition, response, defense mechanisms• Common pathogenic microorganisms• Wound care and healing• Sanitation, disinfection, and sterilization
5.6%	Pharmacology
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Drug groups by usages (e.g. analgesics, anesthetics, anticoagulants)• Basic metric conversions• Administration, preparation, and handling of drugs
4.4%	OSHA and Safety
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Universal Precautions• Personal Protective Equipment• Handling biohazardous materials and waste• Fire, gas, electrical safety specific to OR• OSHA regulations; CDC guidelines• Hepatitis, HIV, AIDS• CPR

22%	<i>Surgical Environment</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General knowledge of the OR • Physical environment, instruments, and equipment • Scrub, gown, glove, mask techniques • Prepping patients: care and psychology • Medical law, liability, ethics, and HIPAA • Scope of practice • Complications in surgery; disaster protocols
43.2%	<i>Perioperative Procedures</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Familiarity with surgical procedures (by name) • Knowledge of surgical instrumentation and equipment • Patient transfer techniques • Patient/skin prepping and positioning • Drapes and draping techniques • Operative exposure and illumination • Types and locations of incisions • Interpretation of radiological, ECG, and lab data pertinent to role • Specimen handling and identification • Hemostasis • Suture preparation and techniques • Surgical implants • Counts • Post-operative routines • Grafting and transplant issues pertinent to role • Clean-up routines
6%	<i>Instruments and Sterilization</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instrument name recognition (by sight) • Instrument handling and use • Instrument arrangement • Methods of decontamination • Methods of sterilization
100%	Total