



## Domain 1: Preoperative Patient Assessment and Diagnosis

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Advance directives and Do Not Resuscitate (DNR)
2. Age and culturally appropriate health assessment techniques
3. Anatomy and physiology
4. Approved nursing diagnoses (North American Nursing Diagnosis Association [NANDA])
5. Perioperative Nursing Data Set [PNDS]
6. Cultural/diversity assessment
7. Diagnostic procedures and results
8. Pain measurement techniques
9. Pathophysiology
10. Pharmacology
11. Universal protocol
12. Surgical consent

### Required Elements of Domain 1

- Confirm patient identity with two patient identifiers, procedure and operative site, side/site marking
- Verify the Surgical Consent
- Conduct an individualized physical assessment including but not limited to skin integrity and mobility deficits
- Use age and culturally appropriate health assessment and interview techniques
- Collect, analyze and prioritize patient data (allergies, lab values, other medical conditions, previous relevant surgical history, chart review, NPO status)
- Review medication history (preoperative meds, home meds, alternative and herbal supplements, medical marijuana use, alcohol use, recreational drug use)
- Perform a pain assessment
- Confirm Advanced Directive and DNR status
- Formulate nursing diagnoses
- Document preoperative assessment

## Domain 2: Identify Expected Outcomes and Develop an Individualized Plan of Care

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Age-specific needs
2. Behavioral responses to the operative/invasive experience
3. Communication skills
4. Community and institutional resources
5. Disease processes
6. Legal and ethical responsibilities and implications for patient care
7. Nursing process
8. Patient rights and responsibilities
9. Perioperative safety
10. Perioperative Nursing Data Set (PNDS)
11. Physiological responses to the surgical experience



## Domain 2: Identify Expected Outcomes and Develop an Individualized Plan of Care Continued

12. Resources for patient/family education
13. Transcultural nursing theory, including cultural and ethnic influences, family patterns, spirituality, and other related practices
14. Teaching/learning needs of patients and families

### Required Elements of Domain 2

- Identify potential physiological responses (e.g. infection, tissue perfusion, thermal regulation) to the operative/invasive experience
- Assess behavioral responses of patient and family (comfort, anxiety, medication, pain management, cultural, and spiritual issues) to the operative/invasive procedure
- Incorporate age-specific needs into the plan of care
- Specify diversity needs and requirements, (language barriers, attire)
- Perform preoperative teaching
- Collaborate with the interdisciplinary healthcare team
- Appraise legal and ethical guidelines related to patient care
- Apply principles of perioperative safety, e.g. chemical exposure, radiation, fire, laser, and positioning to plan of care
- Identify and communicate measurable patient outcomes across the continuum of care (hand offs)

## Domain 3: Intraoperative Activities

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Anatomy and physiology
2. Anesthesia management and anesthetic agents
3. Aseptic technique
4. Documentation of all nursing interventions
5. Environmental cleaning (spills, room turnover, terminal cleaning)
6. Environmental factors (temperature, humidity, air exchange, noise, traffic patterns)
7. Ergonomics and body mechanics
8. Equipment use per manufacturer's instructions
9. Expected outcomes related to identified interventions
10. Implants and explants (handling, tracking, sterilization)
11. Intraoperative blood salvage
12. Instruments, supplies, and equipment relating to surgical procedure
13. Medication management, including the five rights
14. Pain management
15. Patient's rights
16. Pharmacology
17. Physiologic responses to the surgical experience
18. Potential complications
19. Preoperative patient preparation activities
20. Prevention of retained surgical items (counts)
21. Principles of infection control
22. Principles of patient/personnel safety



## Domain 3: Intraoperative Activities Continued

23. Principles of wound healing
24. Problem solving skills
25. Professional standards of care
26. Regulatory guidelines
27. Requirements for handling hazardous materials
28. Requirements for handling specimens
29. Role as a patient advocate
30. Skin antisepsis
31. Smoke plumes
32. Standard and transmission-based precautions
33. Surgical procedure
34. Universal protocol
35. Wound classification

### Required Elements of Domain 3

- Perform universal protocol
- Assist with anesthesia management
- Monitor and evaluate the effects of pharmacological and anesthetic agents
- Label solutions, medications and medication containers
- Perform proper patient positioning
- Utilize proper body mechanics
- Prepare the surgical site
- Maintain the dignity, modesty and privacy of the patient
- Select procedure-specific protective barrier materials
- Assess expiration date and package integrity of products
- Maintain a sterile field utilizing aseptic technique
- Perform counts
- Optimize physiological responses of the patient to the operative/invasive procedure
- Conduct and document intraoperative blood salvage
- Optimize behavioral responses of patient and family (e.g. comfort, anxiety, operative procedure, medication, pain management, cultural, spiritual and ethical issues) to operative/invasive procedure
- Monitor and maintain patient and personnel safety (chemical, fire, smoke plumes, radiation, laser, positioning)
- Identify and control environmental factors (noise, temperature, traffic)
- Test and use equipment according to manufacturer's recommendations
- Confirm, prepare and present implants to sterile field
- Prepare explants for final disposition
- Prepare, label, and transport specimens
- Perform or supervise environmental cleaning for room turnover, spills, and terminal cleaning
- Utilize professional standards of care
- Utilize problem solving skills to facilitate patient care
- Protect patient confidentiality
- Advocate for and protect patients' rights
- Maintain accurate patient records/documentation related to plan of care and nursing interventions



## Domain 4: Communication

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Collaborative reporting to interdisciplinary healthcare providers (e.g. critical lab values, medical condition, medications, allergies, implants/implantable devices, hand off, read back verbal orders, communication barriers)
2. Communication techniques
3. Interdisciplinary plan of care
4. Interviewing techniques
5. Medication reconciliation
6. Proper use of documentation tools
7. Regulatory guidelines (e.g. confidentiality)
8. Universal protocol

### Required Elements of Domain 4

- Identify patient barriers to communication and incorporate effective solutions
- Communicate patient status and changes to the interdisciplinary healthcare providers (critical lab values, medical condition, medications, allergies, implants/implantable devices)
- Utilize hand offs and read back for verbal orders
- Maintain patient confidentiality
- Provide information to the patient/family according to HIPAA guidelines (status, updates)

## Domain 5: Transfer of Care

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Coordination of interdisciplinary care services
2. Documentation of the transfer of care
3. Patient postoperative follow up communication following regulatory guidelines
4. Perioperative patient education techniques
5. Postoperative complications
6. Transfer of care criteria

### Required Elements of Domain 5

- Evaluate patient status to facilitate transfer to the next level of care (PACU, ICU, home)
- Collaborate with interdisciplinary services (nutrition, wound care, social work, visiting nurse, Referrals, transportation)
- Document perioperative education
- Document transfer of care
- Provide and document post discharge follow up communication according to regulatory guidelines



## Domain 6: Cleaning, Disinfecting, Packaging, Sterilizing, Transporting and Storing Instruments and Supplies

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Documentation requirements for sterilization, biological and chemical monitoring
2. Environmental conditions of sterilization and storage areas
3. Handling and disposition of biohazardous materials (e.g. blood, infectious pathogens such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease [CJD])
4. Handling and disposition of hazardous materials (e.g. chemotherapy drugs, radioactive materials)
5. Microbiology and infection prevention
6. Regulatory requirements for tracking of materials and instruments brought in from outside the facility
7. Principles of cleaning and disinfection
8. Principles of packaging and sterilizing
9. Principles of transporting and storage
10. Professional and regulatory standards (AORN Standards and Recommended Practices, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), Centers for Disease Prevention and Control (CDC), Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation (AAMI)
11. Standard and transmission-based precautions

### Required Elements of Domain 6

- Use appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Choose the appropriate method for cleaning and disinfection of contaminated equipment and instruments
- Select appropriate packaging
- Determine appropriate sterilization method
- Select appropriate method(s) for biological/chemical monitoring
- Select appropriate methods for transporting and storage of processed supplies and instruments
- Monitor environmental conditions (e.g. humidity and temperature) of sterilization and storage areas
- Document actions related to cleaning, disinfecting, packaging, sterilizing, transporting, and storing instruments and supplies
- Describe appropriate handling and disposition of hazardous materials (e.g. chemotherapy drugs, radioactive materials)
- Describe appropriate handling and disposition of bio hazardous materials (e.g. blood, infectious pathogens such as Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease [CJD])
- Manage materials and instruments brought in from outside the facility

## Domain 7: Emergency Situations

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Identification of, preparation for, and nursing interventions related to:
  - a. Anaphylaxis
  - b. Cardiac arrest
  - c. Environmental hazards, e.g. fire
  - d. Malignant Hyperthermia (MH)
  - e. Natural disasters e.g. hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc.



## Domain 7: Emergency Situations Continued

- f. Terrorism
- g. Trauma
2. Roles of interdisciplinary healthcare team members

### Required Elements of Domain 7

- Function as a member of the interdisciplinary healthcare team in the prevention or management of:
  - Anaphylaxis
  - Cardiac arrest
  - Environmental hazards e.g. fire
  - Malignant Hyperthermia (MH)
  - Natural disasters e.g. hurricanes, floods, tornados, etc.
  - Terrorism
  - Trauma

## Domain 8: Management of Personnel, Services, and Materials

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics

1. Acquiring equipment, supplies, and personnel for proper room preparation
2. Basic management techniques and delegation
3. Environmental consciousness (go green)
4. Principles of product evaluation and cost containment
5. Role of the Healthcare Industry Representative (HCIR)
6. Role of non-OR personnel (e.g. visitors and students) in the OR
7. Scope of practice

### Required Elements of Domain 8

- Utilize critical thinking skills to anticipate the needs for and acquire equipment, supplies and personnel
- Delegate perioperative tasks to appropriate personnel according to regulatory agencies' standards
- Monitor and implement cost-containment measures
- Practice environmental consciousness (go green)
- Supervise, educate and mentor healthcare team members
- Manage healthcare industry representative (HCIR) presence in the OR
- Supervise non- OR personnel, including visitors and students
- Participate in product evaluation/selection



## Domain 9: Professional Accountabilities

### Questions on the CNOR Exam Will Deal with the Following Topics:

1. Regulatory standards and voluntary guidelines (AORN Standards, Recommended Practices and Guidelines, OSHA, ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Explications for Perioperative Nurses, state Nurse Practice Act)
2. Scope of Practice
3. Resources for professional growth
4. Competence standards in perioperative nursing practice
5. Quality improvement activities for research
6. Quality improvement activities for evidence based practice
7. Quality improvement activities for performance improvement
8. Responsibilities regarding impaired and/or disruptive behavior (patient/family, interdisciplinary healthcare team members)

### Required Elements of Domain 9

- Function within scope of practice
- Demonstrate competence in perioperative nursing practice
- Uphold and act upon ethical and professional standards
- Assess personal limitations and seek assistance as needed
- Identify and utilize resources for professional growth (e.g. shared governance activities, hospital committees, professional organizations)
- Identify quality improvement activities that promote performance improvement, evidence based practice, and research
- Choose appropriate actions when intervening with impaired/disruptive behavior in patients and/or family members