

Evidence Brief: Theatre Workforce

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Produced by the Knowledge Management team Evidence Briefs offer an overview of the published reports, research, and evidence on a workforce-related topic.

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Key publications – the big picture

[Independent review of the physician associate and anaesthesia associate roles: final report \(Leng Review\)](#)

Department of Health and Social Care, July 2025

Independent report by Professor Gillian Leng CBE looking at the safety and effectiveness of physician associates and anaesthesia associates.

[10 Year Health Plan for England: fit for the future](#)

Department of Health and Social Care, July 2025

Sets out the government's 10 Year Health Plan for England.

[Turning the tide: Progress and actions to support targets of sexual misconduct in surgery](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England, April 2025

Sexual misconduct in the surgical profession is endemic. The Working Party on Sexual Misconduct in Surgery (WPSMS), supported by RCS England, has highlighted the scale of sexual misconduct, sexual harassment, and sexual assault in the surgical profession. The 2023 report, 'Breaking the silence: addressing sexual misconduct in healthcare', emphasised the urgent need for systemic change. RCS England is committed to a zero-tolerance approach to sexual misconduct and continues to work closely with the WPSMS to drive reform across surgery and healthcare. This policy paper outlines the progress made to date and sets out the critical next steps needed to ensure sustained action in addressing this serious issue.

[Module on workforce planning and deployment completes GIRFT series of guides for theatre productivity](#)

Getting It Right First Time, August 2024

The sixth module in GIRFT's popular series of practical guides for theatre productivity is available now.

The latest module focuses on workforce planning and deployment, outlining key principles for workforce planning to best support effective theatre flows. It completes a series of guides designed to support staff to understand how finetuning each part of the surgical pathway contributes to the elective recovery goal.

[Report of member survey on anaesthesia associates](#)

Royal College of Anaesthetists, April 2024

The Royal College of Anaesthetists (RCoA) has published the [findings of our survey](#) of members' perceptions and experiences of anaesthesia associates (AAs).

The survey was designed by the College and conducted by Research by Design, an independent research agency, between 21 August and 21 September 2023. All members of the College working as anaesthetists in the NHS/HSC were invited to complete the survey.

[Safe scope of practice for Medical Associate Professionals \(MAPs\)](#)

BMA, January 2024

Medical associate professionals (MAPs), including physician associates (PAs), anaesthesia associates (AAs), and surgical care practitioners (SCPs) are currently working in the NHS in a variety of roles across primary and secondary care.¹ The government in England plans to increase the number of PAs by 2036/37 from approximately 3,250 to 10,000 (an increase of over 300%); and AAs from approximately 180 to 2,000 as part of their NHS Long Term Workforce Plan.² We have always been clear that in well-defined limited roles, MAPs can play an important part in NHS teams, and that doctors will continue to value, respect and support the staff they work with.

[More than half of UK surgical workforce says access to operating theatres is a major challenge](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England, January 2024

The President of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS England) has said that problems accessing operating theatres are contributing to long waiting times for hospital treatment across the UK. A census conducted by RCS England found more than half (56%) of the UK surgical workforce find that operating theatre access is a major challenge. Worryingly, that figure rises to 61% for all surgical trainees – meaning they are missing valuable training time.

[The Physician Associate Role and its Impact on Surgical Training and Patient Care](#)

ASiT: Shaping the Future of Surgery, January 2024

ASiT presents the findings from our survey seeking to quantify the experiences of surgical doctors working with Physician Associates and also to explore the nuances of the changes to surgical training and patient care.

[Concise guide offers actions for reducing waiting times for children and young people's surgery](#)

Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT), September 2023

NHS teams focusing on reducing surgical waiting times for children and young people can now access guidance featuring ten practical measures to help tackle the backlog.

NHS colleagues are working hard to restore elective care, but data shows that activity for children and young people (CYP) is still below pre-pandemic levels and recovery remains behind rates seen in adult services. The specialties of ENT, dental services, ophthalmology, urology, and trauma and orthopaedics (including spinal surgery) are especially challenged, with the longest waiting lists for surgery for young patients.

[Using nursing associate roles in the NHS](#)

NHS Employers, 29 June 2023

Find out how to train, fund and deploy nursing associates, as well as the benefits they can bring to your organisation.

[Operating Department Practitioner Level 6 Apprenticeship Toolkit – South East](#)

Health Education England; Canterbury Christ Church University and Buckinghamshire New University, February 2023

Aimed at NHS organisations, apprenticeship leads, theatre practice educators and leaders, those involved with supporting apprentices. To support the development and growth of existing and future support workers within the operating department environment. To facilitate closer working relationships between Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and NHS organisations supporting ODP apprenticeships. To signpost organisations and apprentices to available support within local organisations and HEIs. To provide examples of processes in place across the region to utilise and build upon where relevant.

N.B. Resources and external links are for suggestion only and do not have to be used over effective tools you may already have in place.

[Establishing an effective and resilient workforce for elective surgical hubs: a Guide for NHS Trusts and Systems](#)

Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT), June 2022

A key element of the elective recovery strategy for the NHS in England is the creation and expansion of elective surgical hubs. One of the integral success factors for the set-up and operation of these hubs will be an appropriately skilled sustainable workforce. This guidance is designed to assist providers and Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) in planning the workforce requirements for new or expanded surgical hubs.

[The Allied Health Professions \(AHPs\) Strategy for England 2022 to 2027](#)

NHS, June 2022

Collectively, allied health professionals (AHPs) are the third largest clinical workforce in the NHS: 185,000 allied health professionals (AHPs) in 14 professions are working across the spectrum of health and care, education (including early years), academia, research, criminal justice system, voluntary and private sectors.

[Developing career pathways for diagnostic imaging support worker roles: guidance on roles and responsibilities](#)

The Society of Radiographers and Health Education England, December 2022

This guidance sets out the roles and responsibilities that diagnostic imaging support workers, including assistant practitioners, can perform at four career levels. It provides additional, profession-specific competencies that complement the AHP Support Worker Competency, Education and Career Development Framework.

[Identifying the extent to which theatre support workers seek opportunities to become Operating Department Practitioners \(ODPs\)](#)

Health Solutions funded by Health Education England, February 2022

This report presents the findings of a small-scale one-year study to identify the extent to which theatre support workers (TSWs) seek opportunities to become Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs), and to be part of the pipeline to increase the ODP workforce. The report has been written to be of interest to Unison and the College of Operating Department Practitioners; the AHP Lead, Health Education England, Service Provider Organisations and HEIs. In this Executive Summary the

authors briefly outline the approach they have taken to the study, and an overview of the main findings.

[Video: Operating Department Practitioner](#)

NHS England Workforce Training and Education YouTube, 2022
An overview about Operating Department Practitioners - what they do and why their role is so important in healthcare.

[Workforce issues: the blurring of boundaries in surgical care](#)

British Journal of Nursing 30(7), April 2021

Bradley Russell and Nicholas Fletcher discuss the need for clear boundaries for those nurses practising at an advanced level in surgical specialties.

[Position statement: The role of the nursing associate in the surgical care team](#)

Perioperative Care Collaborative, November 2021

The aim of this position statement by the PCC is to set out the principles and guidance relating to both the Nursing Associate (NA) scope of practice and their role within perioperative care. The NA will bridge the gap between the Registered Nurse (RN) and Perioperative Healthcare Assistant (PHCA), contributing to integrated care. Both employers and registered practitioners are required to ensure that patient safety is paramount.

[The Health Education England Extended Surgical Teams \(HEEEST\) Pilot: Year 1 Report](#)

Health Education England, ?2021

This report has been written by the Health Education England Extended Surgical Teams (HEE EST) pilot team with input, modification and comment from the extended surgical team (EST) pilot community and the Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT). The Joint Committee on Surgical training (JCST) and Confederation of Postgraduate Schools of Surgery (CoPSS) have also contributed. The extended surgical team is a trained

multi- professional team supporting the entire surgical care pathway. It

[Extended Surgical Team \(EST\) pilot](#)

Health Education England, November 2020

The Health Education England Extended Surgical Team (EST) pilot commenced in November 2020 and is aimed at new 'extended' surgical teams, which include consultants, doctors in training and SAS doctors, but the focus of the pilot is the role of multi professional team members. HEE have supported the development of pilot sites to explore the development of the EST in new areas to both improve workforce provision and enable improvement provision of surgical training.

- [Year 1](#)
- [Year 2](#)
- [Year 3](#)
- [Return on Investment Tool \(Business Case\)](#)
- [News](#)

[Regulating Physician Associates \(Pas\) and Anaesthesia Associates \(AAs\): a rapid review](#)

King's College London, 2020

A Physician Associate (PA) is a 'new healthcare professional who, while not a doctor, works to the medical model, with the attitudes, skills and knowledge base to deliver holistic care and treatment within the general medical and/or general practice team under defined levels of supervision' (Health Education England, 2012). While there are far fewer Anaesthesia Associates (AAs) (formerly known as Physician Assistants (Anaesthesia) until July 2019) this review also covers this role, distinguishing it where possible. AAs are defined as a separate profession 'with a different set of competencies which enable them to work under the supervision of anaesthetists within the operating theatre environment' (Royal College of Physicians).

[Position statement: The role of the Perioperative Healthcare Assistant in the Surgical Care Team](#)

Perioperative Care Collaborative, 2020

The aim of this position statement by the PCC is to set out the principles and guidance relating to both the PHCA scope of practice and their undertaking of delegated interventions and tasks in perioperative roles.

[Surgical Care Practitioners](#)

NHS Employers, 29 October 2018

Information for employers on the surgical care practitioner role and how it fits within the NHS.

[Surgical Care Practitioner Infographic](#)

NHS Employers, 29 October 2018

Access our infographic exploring the role of the surgical care practitioner (SCP).

[Theatre productivity](#)

Getting it Right First Time

To support elective recovery, GIRFT is helping to lead a national theatre programme which aims to draw together all key national workstreams engaged in improving theatre productivity, efficiency and workforce.

The key aims of the programme are to support providers and systems to maximise the effectiveness and throughput of their surgical theatres through improvements across the surgical elective pathway. The programme reports into the National Theatre Board and onward to the National Elective Recovery Programme.

[A question of balance: the extended surgical team](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2016

The surgical workforce has been depleted by reductions in the numbers of doctors in training in surgery, and changes to their working hours and shift patterns.

[Extended roles and their scope of practice](#)

Royal College of Surgeons

This guidance describes in detail two distinct roles for the extended surgical care team, with defined clinical tasks and responsibilities:

- Surgical care practitioner (SCP)
- Surgical first assistant (SFA)

Both roles support the routine care of the surgical patient and increase the capacity of the surgical team. They work under the supervision of a consultant surgeon and support continuity of care in areas that can be delegated to non-medically qualified staff, while allowing surgeons to focus on more complex patient pathways and specialised care.

[Clinical governance of the Surgical Care Team](#)

Royal College of Surgeons

All extended roles in the surgical team should work within a local clinical governance framework. This ensures that:

- Quality of patient care can be assured.
- There is consistency and standardisation of practice.
- The boundaries of the extended roles are documented in written protocols.
- Appropriate responsibilities and supervisory arrangements are clarified and agreed with the extended team member, senior members of the surgical team and service managers.
- Every member of the multidisciplinary team is aware of the accountability, responsibility and scope of practice of those roles and how they fit into the surgical team.

- There are clear arrangements and support for the professional development, monitoring and review of the roles.

A register of all practitioners acting as extended members of the surgical team should be kept in each department where these roles have been introduced.

[Guidance for the Assistant Practitioner role in perioperative support](#)

Health Education England Work Based Education Facilitator Network

Assistant Theatre Practitioners (ATP) compliment the work of the perioperative team working with Surgeons, Anaesthetists and Registered Practitioners to ensure that every operative procedure is risk averse and patients are provided with safe, dignified and effective care. The ATP assists in patient care during surgery by supporting the multidisciplinary team in the perioperative care of the patient, under the supervision of a registered practitioner.

Case Studies

[How primary care used community outreach to support the Armed Forces community](#)

NHS Employers, December 2024

Discover how Ashfields became a leader in supporting Armed Forces Reservists and the wider community to receive high-quality care and support.

[Development of a Competency Framework Defining Effective Surgical Educators](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Surgical Education 81(3), 2024

Objective: The objective of this study is to develop a practical framework of competencies and behaviors which define an

effective surgical educator. Design: A modified Delphi approach was used. A literature review and series of discussions with surgical education experts led to creation of a survey instrument which was sent to surgical faculty and trainees from a single academic institution. The results from this initial survey informed the creation of the subsequent survey instrument which was also sent to surgical faculty and trainees. Focus groups with surgical faculty and residents were conducted separately, transcribed, deidentified, and then evaluated for recurring themes. A competency framework was developed.

[NENC Waiting Well Programme Case Study FINAL V1 June 2024 – Getting It Right First Time – FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

FutureNHS log in required
North East and North Cumbria (NENC), June 2024
The NENC Integrated Care System Waiting Well Programme funded a pre-surgical initiative with diabetes dietitians to deliver dietary advice in conjunction with Freestyle Libre monitors to optimise the most socially deprived (Index of Multiple Deprivation 1-2) patients with HbA1c > 69mmol/mol, waiting for elective surgery.

[Improving productivity to reduce waiting times](#)

Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, March 2024
Our programme to improve operating theatre productivity - working more efficiently to treat more patients within the same resources - is helping us tackle long waits that built up in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, while also improving patient and staff experience. We have been implementing a range of initiatives, drawing on best practice, and benchmarking our performance against that of other NHS trusts.

[Midlands Case Study: Advancing Practice in Surgical Care](#) NHS England Workforce, training and education Advanced Practice

I had the privilege to lead and develop the Surgical Advanced Clinical Practitioner team at South Warwickshire University Hospital Foundation Trust. Over the last 6 years I have grown the team from initially myself and one trainee to now three, qualified surgical advanced practitioners and three trainees at various stages of their Masters (MSc) pathway.

[Delivering clinical T level industry placements: Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust](#)

NHS Employers, July 2023

Find out how Frimley Health NHS Foundation Trust piloted T Level industry placements in a range of clinical settings.

[What it's really like to be an ODP](#)

Birmingham City University

We've spent time talking to BCU alumna Paige Jones, who works as an ODP and was recently filmed for a BBC documentary: Edge of Life. Below, Paige very kindly gives us an insight into what it's really like to be an ODP.

[Surgical Care Practitioner Case Study](#)

Royal College of Surgeons of England

Read on to find out more about life as a Surgical Care Practitioner from the perspective of Adrian Jones, one of the first of his kind.

[Christopher Cunliffe Level 6 Operating Department Practitioner \(integrated degree\)](#)

Skills for Health Healthcare Apprenticeships

Meet Christopher Cunliffe, a Level 6 Operating Department Practitioner (integrated degree) apprentice working at Warrington and Halton Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust .We

spoke with Christopher about his apprenticeship journey, keep reading to find out more.

The Star for workforce redesign

More resources and tools are available in [the Star](#)

Statistics

You can find relevant statistics on the [Health and Care Statistics Landscape](#) under “**Health and Care**”

[Supporting Facilities Data](#)

NHS England

The number of operating theatres and supporting facilities in NHS organisations in England.

National Data Programme

Workforce, Training and Education staff can look at the [National Data Warehouse \(NDL\)](#) SharePoint site to find out more about datasets and Tableau products.

Published Peer Reviewed Research

Advanced Practice

[Advanced practice nursing in surgery: A scoping review of roles, responsibilities, and educational programs](#) Abstract only*

International Nursing Review 72(3), 2025

Introduction: The increasing complexity of the healthcare sector requires an evolution in nursing education to effectively manage care in complex and interdisciplinary contexts. Aim(s): This review aims to analyze the role of advanced practice nurse (APN) in the surgical context within hospital settings, detailing their functions and responsibilities. It also provides an overview of the main degrees and postgraduate training programs for specialization in perioperative management in major Western countries.

[Agile working, poly-skilling and advanced practice roles: A discourse analysis of strategic planning in England and implications for perioperative care](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice, 2025

Efforts to help the NHS recover from the global pandemic have included the establishment of new Surgical Hubs to ramp up elective surgical activity since 2022, a new 10-year Workforce Plan released in 2023, a review of the state of the NHS by Lord Darzi in 2024, and a new Budget for government spending soon after. Implicit in all measures to improve surgical activity in the United Kingdom is the need for transformation in the workforce.

[Benefits of an advanced nurse practitioner led hip fracture clinic in an Irish Orthopaedic Trauma Service](#)

Osteoporosis International, 2025: Ireland has high hip fracture rates, stressing services for older adults. An ANP-led clinic was introduced to improve post-discharge care. Among 87 patients,

significant gains in pain, mobility, and bone health management were seen. The clinic proved a safe, effective model addressing critical gaps in hip fracture follow-up care.,

[Advanced non-medical roles within surgery and their engagement with assistive health technologies](#) Abstract only* British journal of nursing (Mark Allen Publishing), 32(14), 2023 The role of the surgical care practitioner (SCP) is common in UK surgical centres. The SCP curriculum is robust and well developed in multiple specialties since it was first developed in 1989. The SCP role can often concentrate on technical skills, developing a skillset that is highly effective during traditional open surgical procedures. This skillset requires further investigation because technology-assisted surgeries are becoming more common, including the use of novel approaches to developing non-technical skills.

Bullying and Harassment

[Bullying, Harassment, and Undermining Behavior in Cardiothoracic Surgery in the United Kingdom and Ireland](#)

Abstract only*

The Annals of Thoracic Surgery 119(5), 2025

BACKGROUND: Bullying, harassment, and undermining behavior has a profound detrimental effect on the multiprofessional team, patient safety, and clinical outcomes. Bullying creates a poor working and training environment, increasing stress, damaging confidence, and impairing well-being. We sought to characterize the prevalence and nature of bullying, harassment, and undermining within cardiothoracic surgery in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland., METHODS: A 21-question survey was sent to all members of the Society for Cardiothoracic Surgery in Great Britain and Ireland. Participants were asked about baseline demographics and their experience of bullying as victim or witness.

[Breaking the silence on sexual misconduct in surgery: one year on](#)

The Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England 106(6), 2024

A year after publication of the report, 'Breaking the silence: addressing sexual misconduct in healthcare', the authors share the progress made and discuss what still needs to be done by us all.

Career Development and Pathways

[Barriers to Clinical Academic Surgical Training and Career Development in the United Kingdom: A Review from the National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\) Advanced Surgical Technology Incubator \(ASTI\) Group](#)

British Journal of Hospital Medicine (17508460) 86(3), 2025

Clinical academics play a vital role in advancing medical research, knowledge and treatments within the National Health System (NHS), but this career's sustainability is at risk due to barriers to accessing and pursuing research opportunities throughout a surgeon's training and career. Despite the diversification of surgical training with integrated opportunities, challenges such as limited training opportunities, lack of protected research time, and financial constraints persist. This paper from the National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR) Advanced Surgical Technology Incubator (ASTI) group highlights these issues, addressing the competitiveness of academic pathways, workload balance, mentorship importance, and the need for standardised assessments. It highlights the need for greater accountability from healthcare employers and academic institutions.

[Promoting Longevity in Surgical Careers: A Narrative Review and Fitness Program to Reduce Occupational Pain](#) Full text

available with NHS OpenAthens account*

Journal of Surgical Education 82(7), 2025

Importance: Many surgeons experience work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD) throughout their career. Incorporating evidence-based strategies to prevent and manage MSDs would benefit both trainees and those in practice. The present narrative review seeks to evaluate the effectiveness of current strategies to manage and prevent musculoskeletal (MSK) occupational pain among surgeons and trainees.

[Ever thought about being a scrub nurse?: The role of perioperative practitioners – or theatre nurses – in ensuring patient safety across anaesthetics, surgery and recovery](#)

Abstract only*

Nursing Standard 36(12), 2021

Abstract: The perioperative environment has three main areas: anaesthetics, surgery and recovery. A professional who works in these areas is called a perioperative practitioner and is either a nurse or an operating department practitioner (ODP).

[Career opportunities for theatre practitioners](#)

Journal of Perioperative Practice, 27(7-8) 2018

Never have there been such a vast number of career opportunities for all levels of staff within the perioperative environment including healthcare support workers, operating department practitioners and nurses.

Education and Training

[The impostor phenomenon among surgeons and surgeons in training: a scoping review](#)

BMC Medical Education 25(1), 2025

Background: The impostor phenomenon (IP), is a condition in

which people think they are incapable of success and tend to attribute their success to external causes such as luck, error, or knowing the appropriate individuals. It has been confirmed as a contributor to burnout for practicing physicians, residents, and medical students. The purpose of this scoping review is to describe the prevalence and scope of IP among surgeons and surgeons in training, in order to determine gaps that can be addressed in future research.

[Distributed training vs. massed practice for surgical skills training-a systematic review](#) Abstract only*

Surgical Endoscopy 39(1), 2025

Background: Surgical skills training is often conducted using a massed approach. However, using a distributed training schedule may have benefits and increase skill retention. This study aimed to review the evidence for distributed training vs. massed training and recommend how surgical training should be scheduled.

[Current landscape of academic neurosurgical training in the United Kingdom: analysis by the Society of British Neurological Surgeons](#) Abstract only*

British Journal of Neurosurgery 39(2), 2025

OBJECTIVE: Little is known about the impact of academic training on Neurosurgery in the United Kingdom (UK). The aim was to understand the early career clinical and research training journeys of potential future clinical academics, with a view to informing future policy and strategy to improve career development for academic neurosurgical trainees and consultants in the UK.

[Distress of surgical nursing personnel in dealing with patients with dementia: An integrative review](#) Abstract only*

Zeitschrift Fur Gerontologie Und Geriatrie, 2024

Background: Challenging behavior of patients with dementia

(PawD) leads to distress among nursing staff in acute hospital settings. Different levels of distress can be assumed between medical and surgical staff. Less is known about distress in surgical departments. Objective(s): The aim is to summarize and synthesize current empirical studies on distress experienced by surgical nursing staff in dealing with PawD and the associated occurrence of challenging behavior.

[Development and evaluation of a societal core robotic surgery accreditation curriculum for the UK](#)

Journal of Robotic Surgery 18(1), 2024

Standardised proficiency-based progression is the cornerstone of safe robotic skills acquisition, however, is currently lacking within surgical training curricula. Expert consensuses have defined a modular pathway to accredit surgeons. This study aimed to address the lack of a formal, pre-clinical core robotic skills, proficiency-based accreditation curriculum in the UK. Novice robotic participants underwent a four-day pre-clinical core robotic skills curriculum incorporating multimodal assessment.

[Training and education of operating room nurses in robot-assisted surgery: a systematic review](#) Abstract only*

Surgical Endoscopy 38(12), 2024

Background: With the introduction of robot-assisted surgery, the role and responsibility of the operating room nurses have been expanded. The surgical team for robotic-assisted surgery depends on the ability of the operating room nurses to operate and handle the robotic system before, during, and after procedures. However, operating room nurses must acquire the necessary competencies for robotic-assisted surgery.

[Surgical Training Pathways in the United Kingdom and the United States: Lessons for Resource-Limited Settings From High-Income Countries](#)

Cureus 16(11), 2024

Background Surgical training is a critical component of healthcare, especially in high-income countries such as the United Kingdom (UK) and the United States (US), which have established distinct, well-organised training frameworks. Comparing these systems provides valuable insights that may enhance global surgical education, particularly in low- and middle-income countries, where training and retaining proficient surgeons are considerable challenges.

[Vascular access surgery training in the United Kingdom is currently perceived \(by trainees\) to be inadequate](#)

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2024

INTRODUCTION: Vascular access surgery (VAS) involves the creation and maintenance of arteriovenous access to facilitate haemodialysis. The prevalence of haemodialysis is rising despite increases in kidney transplants on a yearly basis. There is currently only one access surgery fellowship accredited by the Royal College of Surgeons of England. We aimed to establish the experience and perceived competence in access surgery of senior vascular surgery trainees.

[A comparison of general surgery training programmes across 11 countries: improving understanding of the experience level of international medical graduates in the UK](#)

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2024

INTRODUCTION: Within the past five years there has been a significant increase in the number of international medical graduates (IMGs) joining the United Kingdom's (UK) workforce. Having mentors and supervisors who understand the needs of IMGs and clinical and cultural differences in the workplace can benefit in the transition to working in a new country. Improving knowledge of and understanding differences between general surgical training programmes and grades across different countries could therefore aid in the support of IMGs within the UK.

[Exploring the Experiences of Undergraduate Medical Students on Surgical Placement - A Qualitative Study](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Surgical Education 81(5), 2024

OBJECTIVE: Multiple elements in the clinical learning environment have been found to influence medical students' learning experiences. A rich area of research, many factors are already known to influence students' experiences of learning which go on to impact later training choices. However, there is a knowledge gap specifically related to undergraduate medical students' experiences of surgical placement. This study aims to explore the lived experiences of medical students in their surgery rotation(s).

[The introduction of a Surgical Care Practitioner training programme to an acute National Health Service trust and an exploration of the interrelationships between Surgical Care Practitioners, their trainers and surgical trainees](#) Abstract only*

Journal of perioperative practice 34(4), 2023

This study aimed to explore the impact of the introduction of a Surgical Care Practitioner programme on junior surgical training within an acute National Health Service trust. A qualitative methodology of semi-structured interviews was used to gather information from eight Surgical Care Practitioners, eight surgical trainees and eight consultant grade trainers.

[Theatre practitioners and organisational adaptive capacity in disaster response](#)

Journal of perioperative practice 33(12), 2023

Disasters are increasing globally, requiring flexible strategic approaches from healthcare organisations to manage the resultant influx of patients requiring care while also maintaining normal operational services. Theatre practitioners play a key role in disaster response and recovery; however, a lack of appropriate skill utilisation may be reducing overall

organisational adaptive capacity and leading to poorer outcomes for organisations, staff and patients.

[Implementing a surgical first assistant role into that of a clinical nurse specialist at an orthopaedic specialist hospital](#) Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing, 30(20), 2021

Background: Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are experienced senior nurses with advanced clinical knowledge, communication and leadership skills and commonly take on extended roles to optimise care delivery within health and social care. Aim(s): To critically explore the experience of one clinical nurse specialist who undertook an enhanced qualification to become a surgical first assistant.

[A Curriculum for Perioperative Nurse Deployment During a Pandemic](#)

AORN Journal, 113(2), 2021

As the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic spread around the world, the US Surgeon General called for the cancellation of elective surgeries. At a large academic medical center in the Northeast, there was a resulting surplus of perioperative nurses who were deployed to inpatient units in need of skilled nursing care for a surge of COVID-19 patients. To prepare them for deployment to inpatient units, perioperative leaders developed a core curriculum to ensure that the OR nurses possessed the skills and knowledge required to successfully care for patients outside the OR with the same level of care and compassion that they provided to perioperative patients.

[Operating department practitioners and adult nurses: interprofessional education bedfellows or a bridge too far?](#)

BMJ simulation & technology enhanced learning, 5(4), 2019
Background: Interprofessional education (IPE) is well embedded in undergraduate health curricula. However, scant literature exists on which health and care disciplines, such as adult nurses and operating department practitioners (ODPs), prefer to work within simulated learning events.

[How can the presence of a surgical care practitioner improve training for staff who are learning how to scrub for robotics cases in a urology theatre?](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 29(6), 2019

Aim: This study examines how a surgical care practitioner can contribute to the learning needs of junior scrub staff learning to scrub for urological robotics cases. Key themes include education, technical training, non-technical skills, patient safety and the specialist practitioner as educator.

[Factors that influence medical student learning in the operating room](#) Abstract only*

Medical Teacher 41(5), 2019

Introduction: The operating room (OR) is a dynamic, high-pressure clinical setting that offers a unique workplace-based learning environment for students. We undertook a narrative synthesis of the literature to identify factors that influence medical student learning in the OR, and we recommend educational strategies that maximize "theater-based learning".

[How can positive and negative trainer feedback in the operating theatre impact a surgical trainee's confidence and well-being: a qualitative study in the North of England](#)

BMJ Open 8(2), 2018

Objective: To identify the perception of positive feedback (PF) and negative feedback (NF) provided by trainers in the operating

theatre on surgical trainees' confidence and well-being.

Design Narrative interview study. Setting: Twelve hospitals that form part of one deanery within the UK.

[Non-technical skills in minimally invasive surgery teams: a systematic review](#) Abstract only*

Surgical Endoscopy 30, 2016

Background: Root cause analyses show that up to 70 % of adverse events are caused by human error. Strong non-technical skills (NTS) can prevent or reduce these errors, considerable numbers of which occur in the operating theatre. Minimally invasive surgery (MIS) requires manipulation of more complex equipment than open procedures, likely requiring a different set of NTS for each kind of team. The aims of this study were to identify the MIS teams' key NTS and investigate the effect of training and assessment of NTS on MIS teams.

[A combined teamwork training and work standardisation intervention in operating theatres: controlled interrupted time series study](#) Full text available with NHS OpenAthens account*

BMJ Quality and Safety 24(2), 2015

Background: Teamwork training and system standardisation have both been proposed to reduce error and harm in surgery. Since the approaches differ markedly, there is potential for synergy between them. Design: Controlled interrupted time series with a 3 month intervention and observation phases before and after.

[Multidisciplinary team simulation for the operating theatre: a review of the literature](#) Abstract only*

ANZ Journal of Surgery 84(7-8), 2014

Introduction: Analyses of adverse events inside the operating theatre has demonstrated that many errors are caused by failure in non-technical skills and teamwork. While simulation has been used successfully for teaching and improving technical skills,

more recently, multidisciplinary simulation has been used for training team skills. We hypothesized that this type of training is feasible and improves team skills in the operating theatre.

[Adding value to the education of nurses, midwives and operating department practitioners through a 'life-wide' curriculum](#) Abstract only*

Nurse education today, 30(3), 2010

The University of Surrey is developing the idea of a life-wide education. The intention is to develop a not for credit personal and professional development award through which a student's life-wide learning enterprise can be encouraged, supported, valued and publicly recognised. This paper is not intended to be a research study proving that life-wide learning is a valid concept for higher education.

Efficiency and Productivity

[Overhauling the discharge process in day surgery: Nurses at a day treatment centre in London have challenged the standard four-hour wait after surgery](#) Abstract only*

Nursing Management - UK 31(1), 2024

When designing the day surgery unit in our new children's day treatment centre at Evelina London Children's Hospital, families wanted to know why – regardless of the type of procedure – their children had to wait four hours after general anaesthetic before discharge.

[Extended operating times are more efficient, save money and maintain a high staff and patient satisfaction](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 28(9), 2018

Current public sector austerity measures necessitate efficiency savings throughout the NHS. Performance targets have resulted in activity being performed in the private sector, waiting list initiative lists and requests for staff to work overtime. This has

resulted in staff fatigue and additional agency costs. Adoption of extended operating theatre times (0800-1800 hours) may improve productivity and efficiency, with potentially significant financial savings; however, implementation may adversely affect staff morale and patient compliance. A pilot period of four months of extended operating times (4.5 hour sessions) was completed and included all theatre surgical specialties.

[Trauma theatre productivity - Does the individual surgeon, anaesthetist or consultant presence matter?](#) Abstract only* Injury 49(5), 2018

Introduction: With rising NHS clinical and financial demands, improving theatre efficiency is essential to maintain quality of patient care. Consistent teams and consultant presence have been shown to improve outcomes and productivity in elective orthopaedic surgery. The aim of this study was to investigate the impact on trauma theatre productivity of different surgeons and anaesthetists working together in a Major Trauma Centre.

[Re-evaluation of three-session theatre efficiency](#)

The Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England 99(7), June 2017

The first decade of the new millennium brought in a vast amount of changes in the National Health Service (NHS). There has been a need and constant drive towards efficiency and savings. Theatre utilisation has become the principal managerial measure of theatre performance across trusts in the UK.¹

Equality, Diversity and Inclusion

[Differential attainment at national selection for higher surgical training: a retrospective cohort study](#)

BMJ Open 15(1), 2025

OBJECTIVES: National selection for higher surgical specialty training (HST) in the UK is a high-stakes gatekeeping

assessment. If barriers, such as differential attainment, exist at HST selection for some groups and not others, then this will have a significant and lasting impact on trainees' career progression and the diversity of the workforce, which should reflect the population it provides care for. The objective of this study was to characterise the relationship between candidate sociodemographic factors and performance at National Selection for HST in the UK., DESIGN: A retrospective cohort study.

[Assessing economic investment required to scale up bariatric surgery capacity in England: a health economic modelling analysis](#)

Item Type: Journal Article

BMJ Open 14(7), 2024

OBJECTIVES: To quantify the economic investment required to increase bariatric surgery (BaS) capacity in National Health Service (NHS) England considering the growing obesity prevalence and low provision of BaS in England despite its high clinical effectiveness.

[Breaking the glass ceiling: a multiregional study of mentorship and leadership in all-women surgical teams](#)

Journal of Healthcare Leadership 16, 2024

BACKGROUND: Globally, billions of people lack access to safe surgical care. Women represent a valuable resource to tackle the healthcare workforce shortage which impedes the delivery of surgery. With women entering the global health workforce at an increasing rate, Operation Smile (OS) launched the Women in Medicine program to create women-led leadership and mentorship opportunities for women healthcare workers to empower them to become leaders in healthcare. PURPOSE: This multi-regional study aims to evaluate the experiences of healthcare providers on OS all-women surgical programs and the impact of participation on leadership and mentorship opportunities.

[The impact of disability on recruitment to higher surgical specialty training: A retrospective cohort study](#)

The Surgeon: Journal of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Ireland 22(6), 2024

BACKGROUND: UK examining bodies are required to eliminate discrimination against people with protected characteristics. To achieve this in surgery, differential attainment (DA) in assessments used as gatekeepers to career progression must be ruled out. This study investigated the impact of disability status on the likelihood of success at national selection for Higher Surgical Training (HST).

[Gender more than ethnicity or disability influences the choice of a career in cardiothoracic surgery by United Kingdom medical students](#)

The Surgeon: Journal of the Royal Colleges of Surgeons of Edinburgh and Ireland 22(5), 2024

OBJECTIVES: Cardiothoracic surgery has reported poor equality, diversity, and inclusion amongst its faculty [1-3]. We explored how gender, ethnicity, and disability influence medical students' interest in cardiothoracic surgery as a career choice, as well as overall exposure to cardiothoracic surgery in the undergraduate curriculum.

[To Identify and Discuss the Enablers or Facilitators and Barriers to International Medical Graduates Adapting to the United Kingdom National Health Service in a Defined Surgical Trainee Population: A Qualitative Study](#)

South Asian Journal of Cancer 13(4), 2024

Background: International medical graduates (IMGs) play a crucial role in the United Kingdom National Health Service (NHS), yet they encounter significant challenges adapting to the NHS environment. This study aims to identify the enablers and barriers affecting the adaptation of IMGs, specifically focusing on surgical trainees in the Master of Surgery (MCh) program at

Edge Hill University., Methods: A qualitative approach was employed, utilizing an interpretivist philosophy and descriptive design. Data were collected through focus group discussions with first-year MCh surgical trainees. Thematic analysis was conducted to extract key themes related to adaptation

Extended surgical team

[The current state of the surgical care team in the United Kingdom: Shall we 'do a time out'? Abstract only*](#)

Journal of perioperative practice, 32(12), 2022

Abstract: The reduction of junior doctors' working hours over the last two decades paved the way to non-medical practitioners providing care traditionally discharged by surgeons and other medics. These registered practitioners play a vital role in the care of patients in surgery and work within multi-disciplinary teams comprising surgical care practitioners, advanced clinical practitioners in surgery, and physician associates, with significant experience in nursing or allied health care professional practice.

Health, wellbeing and burnout

[Aching for Change: Musculoskeletal Pain in the Operating Theatre Amongst Surgical Trainees Abstract only*](#)

Journal of Surgical Education 82(2), 2025

OBJECTIVES: Work-related injuries are common among surgeons with up to 70% being found to report difficulties. Given the extension expected to career longevity for current trainees, injury prevention is more important than ever. However, ergonomics education for surgical trainees in the UK is deficient. We aimed to gauge whether current trainees in Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) experience pain whilst operating and what strategies, if any, they utilise.

[Putting Patients at Risk: The Effect of Health Care Provider Burnout on Patient Care in the Operating Room. A Narrative Review](#)

Journal of Patient Safety, 2025

Objectives: This review aimed to explore the prevalence of burnout among health care professionals working in the operating room (OR) and its impact on patient safety and care quality.

[Health and wellbeing of second-degree students pursuing oral and maxillofacial surgery Abstract only*](#)

The British Journal of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery 63(3), 2025

Second-degree students pursuing oral and maxillofacial surgery (OMFS) may be at particular risk of burnout when striving to find a balance between a full-time degree, locum work, and developing portfolios for specialist training applications. The current study aimed to explore self-reported burnout and identify risk factors for burnout amongst second-degree students considering a career in OMFS.

[The effects of stress on surgical performance: a systematic review](#)

Surgical Endoscopy 39(1), 2025

Introduction: Acute stress, the psychological response to short-term challenging stimuli, is frequently encountered in the high-pressure environment of the operating theatre. Surgeon stress is associated with deterioration in surgical performance, surgical team working and compromised patient safety. Given these concerns, the aim of this review was to understand the impact of acute stress on surgical performance in technical and non-technical domains as well as patient outcomes.

[Effects of music therapy on occupational stress and burn-out risk of operating room staff](#)

Libyan Journal of Medicine 15:1, 2020

The operating theatre staff is exposed to various constraints such as excessive working hours, severe medical conditions and dreadful consequences in case of malpractice. These working conditions may lead to high and chronic levels of stress, which can interfere with medical staff well-being and patients quality of care. The aim of this study is to assess the impact of music therapy on stress levels and burnout risk on the operating room staff.

[Risk and health effects in operating room personnel](#) Abstract only*

Work 39(3), 2011

Objective: The objective was to find the factors that pose a possible health risk to OR personnel. Work-related health problems of operating room (OR) personnel were signalled by an occupational physician and preparations for the development of new Worker's Health Surveillance (WHS) were started with a systematic review of the literature.

Leadership and Mentorship

[Mentorship in surgical training; a systematic scoping review to inform a mentorship framework for ophthalmology trainees](#)

BMC Medical Education 25(1), 2025

Background: Mentorship plays a vital role in surgical training. In the field of ophthalmology, effective mentorship is particularly critical due to the specialised nature of surgeries and the need for comprehensive skill development. However, the landscape of mentorship remains underexplored. Understanding key characteristics and components of effective mentorship is essential for optimising training and ensuring the success of future generations of surgeons. This scoping review aims to

analyse existing literature on mentorship in surgical training and to employ Levac et al.'s enhanced methodological framework to construct a conceptual framework for a bespoke mentorship programme tailored to the needs of ophthalmology trainees.

[An examination of the literature surrounding leadership and change management to implement a Golden Theatre Initiative: Reducing inefficiencies within a neurosurgical operating department](#)

Journal of Perioperative Practice 35(6), 2025

Following the COVID-19 pandemic, National Health Service trusts nationwide are faced with a significant backlog of patients to clear, furthering the strain on the National Health Service. In an era where sustainability and efficient management of National Health Services is of paramount importance, the introduction of a Golden Theatre Initiative could alleviate day-to-day pressures and assist in the smooth running of a modern-day theatre department.

[Five principles to prioritise in small-scale surgical quality improvement: a qualitative study of the views of surgical improvement leaders](#)

BMJ Open Quality 14(1), 2025

OBJECTIVE: Variations in the quality and safety of surgical care remain persistent. Efforts to improve are needed, but are themselves variably effective, with often disappointing impacts. When compared with large-scale, multisite and better resourced improvement efforts, the evidence base for small-scale quality improvement (QI) has remained under-developed and lacking in clarity on good practice. We aimed to identify experienced leaders' views on the principles that should guide small-scale QI projects in surgery.

[An environmental scan of current mentorship: fostering the next generations in cardiothoracic surgery in the UK](#)

Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery 20(1), 2025

OBJECTIVES: Mentorship is critical to the professional development of junior colleagues in cardiothoracic surgery. Despite its presumed importance and frequent discussion, its impact within cardiothoracic surgery training remains uncharacterised within the UK. We aimed to evaluate mentorship experience and identify gaps in the system of mentorship education. The differences between men and women's views on mentorship are also considered.

[Effects of Mentorship on Surgery Residents' Burnout and Well-Being: A Scoping Review](#)

Journal of Surgical Education 81(11), 2024

BACKGROUND: In surgical training, a mentor is a more senior and experienced surgeon who guides a surgical trainee to meet personal, professional, and educational goals. Although mentorship is widely assumed to positively affect surgical residents' professional development, a more nuanced understanding of mentorship's impact is lacking and urgently needed as burnout rates among residents increase. This study aims to summarize the current literature on the effects of mentorship on surgical residents' burnout and well-being.

['Virtual Mentorship is a No-Brainer': The Application of a Virtual Mentorship Programme for Prospective Plastic Surgery Trainees](#)

Cureus 16(11), 2024

Aims This study aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of a virtual mentorship programme in plastic surgery designed for medical students and foundation doctors in the United Kingdom. The programme sought to enhance understanding of common and emergency conditions, provide guidance on the application process for speciality training, and facilitate networking opportunities.

[Surgical specialty speed-dating: Promoting surgical leadership to female medical students](#) Abstract only*

Medical Teacher 43(1), 2021

Abstract: In the article, the authors present their study to determine whether the Women in Surgery (WinS) symposium "Leaders of the Field" will inspire female students in pursuing surgical careers and achieve their leadership potential. The 2019 symposium at the University of Cambridge in England include a 'specialty speed-dating' in which senior female surgeons promoted their specialties to small student groups. Also mentioned is the importance of mentorship in medical education.

[Challenging gender stereotypes and advancing inclusive leadership in the operating theatre](#)

British Journal of Anaesthesia 124(3), 2020

Modern healthcare is delivered by interprofessional teams, and good leadership of these teams is integral to safe patient care. Good leadership in the operating theatre has traditionally been considered as authoritative, confident and directive, and stereotypically associated with men. We argue that this may not be the best model for team-based patient care and promote the concept of inclusive leadership as a valid alternative. Inclusive leadership encourages all team members to contribute to decision-making, thus engendering more team cohesion, information sharing and speaking up, and ultimately enhancing team effectiveness.

[Lean healthcare from a change management perspective](#)

Abstract only*

Journal of Health Organization and Management (3), May 2016
Purpose - Lean healthcare is used in a growing number of hospitals to increase efficiency and quality of care. However, healthcare organizations encounter problems with the implementation of change initiatives due to an implementation gap: the gap between strategy and execution. From a change

management perspective, the purpose of this paper is to increase scientific knowledge regarding factors that diminish the implementation gap and make the transition from the "toolbox lean" toward an actual transformation to lean healthcare.

Learning from Covid-19

[Deployment of Perioperative Nurses From Their Clinical Specialty During the COVID-19 Pandemic: An Integrative Review](#)

Journal of Advanced Nursing, 2025

Aim: To identify the available records surrounding the deployment of perioperative nurses into differing clinical settings during the COVID-19 pandemic. Design(s): Integrative review methodology. Method(s): Quality appraisal of each record was conducted using a modified Critical Appraisal Skills Programme checklist. Data were extracted and presented based on outlined research objectives. Data Sources: Six electronic databases (CINAHL Plus, Google Scholar, MEDLINE, Pubmed, Scopus, and Web of Science) were searched, with relevant peer-reviewed records published after 2019 until February 2025 included to differentiate from other respiratory pandemics. Result(s): Ten records were included in the review.

Medical Associate Professions (MAPs)

[Physician associates and anaesthetic associates in UK: rapid systematic review of recent UK based research](#)

BMJ 388(8459), 2025

Objective To summarise research on the efficacy and safety of UK physician associates and anaesthetic associates in the context of an ongoing policy review. Design Rapid systematic review. Search strategy Keyword and author search of three databases; citation tracking; search of previous systematic reviews. Eligible studies Empirical research (any design) on

physician associates/anaesthetic associates in UK healthcare published between 2015 and January 2025. Main outcomes Any measure of clinical efficacy or safety. Methods Eligible papers were grouped into categories and appraised using Critical Appraisal Skills Programme checklists.

[Anaesthesia associates' clinical activity, case mix, supervision and involvement in peri-operative cardiac arrest: analysis from the 7th National Audit Project](#)

Anaesthesia 79(10), 2024

BACKGROUND: We analysed the clinical practice of anaesthesia associates in the UK, as reported to the 7th National Audit Project of the Royal College of Anaesthetists, and compared these with medically qualified anaesthetists., METHODS: We included data from our baseline survey, activity survey and case registry as with other reports from the project., RESULTS: Among 197 departments of anaesthesia, 52 (26%) employed anaesthesia associates. Of 10,009 responding anaesthesia care providers, 71 (90% of consultants).

[Anaesthesia associates: College votes to halt recruitment until review is conducted](#)

BMJ, 2023

The reduction of junior doctors' working hours over the last two decades paved the way to non-medical practitioners providing care traditionally discharged by surgeons and other medics. These registered practitioners play a vital role in the care of patients in surgery and work within multi-disciplinary teams comprising surgical care practitioners, advanced clinical practitioners in surgery, and physician associates, with significant experience in nursing or allied health care professional practice.

[The experience of working with anaesthesia associates in the United Kingdom and the impact on medical anaesthetic training](#)

Abstract only*

The International journal of health planning and management, 37(5), 2022

Anaesthesia Associates have been established in the UK for over 10 years, but without statutory regulation. Renewed interest surfaced based on a widening gap between patient need and workforce supply in the UK and established advanced practice non-doctor roles within healthcare systems elsewhere. However, there are no robust data on their impact on patient or hospital outcomes, or training opportunities for medical anaesthetists, and perceptions of the profession within the anaesthetic community are mixed. This paper describes an investigation into the demographics and scope of practice of Anaesthesia Associates in the UK in 2017, and the experience of working together as an anaesthetic team.

[Surgical care practitioners: an audit across the surgical specialties](#)

Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing 31(11), 2022

Abstract: Introduction: The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS), when devising their curriculum for surgical care practitioners (SCPs), aimed to provide a level of training to produce a practitioner able to work across the surgical patient's journey, providing care to, arguably, an advanced level. This audit planned to examine the reality of this. Method: SCPs from a closed group, on the Facebook social media platform were invited to complete an online questionnaire about their role as an SCP.

[The role of the surgical care practitioner during the COVID-19 pandemic: An audit of experiences](#)

Abstract only*

Journal of perioperative practice, 31(3), 2021

INTRODUCTION: The Surgical Care Practitioner is a medical associate profession role, working to an advanced level, undertaken by registered nurses, operating department practitioners or physiotherapists, on completion of a Royal College of Surgeons accredited course. The COVID-19 pandemic has led to all health care professionals needing to adapt to help support the health care system as it tackles its effect.

[Extending the surgical workforce – should we be worried?](#)

The Bulletin of the Royal College of Surgeons of England 102(3), March 2020

We map the impact of medical associate professions on surgical training.

It is clear to all of us in surgical training that the surgical landscape and surgical workforce have changed over the past few decades. We are constantly trying to meet both the demands of surgical training and those of a stretched NHS. The pressure on services has increased with falling numbers of doctors in training, a greater number of patients being treated¹ and higher expectations of care – not to mention the growth of training pressures with ever-increasing paperwork demands. Surely we would embrace any change claiming to relieve the burden on surgeons in training?

[Surgical role expansion among the NHS workforce](#)

Abstract only*

British Journal of Nursing 29(10), May 2020

Professor Alan Glasper, from the University of Southampton, discusses the new government initiative to train nurses and other healthcare staff to become surgical care practitioners.

[Two decades on - cardiothoracic surgical care practitioners in the UK: a narrative review](#)

Journal of Cardiothoracic Surgery 15(39), 2020

Background: The role of Surgical Care Practitioner (SCP) was first introduced by the NHS in the field of cardiothoracic surgery more than two decades ago to overcome the chronic shortage of junior doctors, and subsequently evolved into other surgical specialties. This review aims to provide evidence on the current situation of SCPs' clinical outcomes within their surgical extended role, with an emphasis on the cardiothoracic surgical field.

[Evaluating a specialist nurse's role in a general paediatric surgical team](#) Abstract only*

Nursing children and young people, 26(8), 2014

A surgical care practitioner (SCP) is a registered nurse or allied health professional who, following specific education and competency training, carries out pre- and post-operative treatment and some surgical interventions under the supervision of a consultant surgeon, contributing to the maintenance of surgical services and the enhancement of patient care. With a cohesive approach, the SCP can do much to ensure continuity of care and mutual understanding and concordance between staff, child and family.

[The general surgical care practitioner improves surgical outpatient streamlining and the delivery of elective surgical care](#)

Abstract only*

Journal of perioperative practice, 23(6) 2013

The feasibility of implementing a surgical care practitioner (SCP) role for the delivery of secondary care within the general surgery department of a district general hospital was evaluated. Streamlining patients into an SCP-led 'one-stop' gallbladder clinic for symptomatic uncomplicated cholelithiasis led to a reduction in follow-up clinic workload for major elective

laparoscopic work and more appropriate triaging of primary care referrals. Each of these improvements contributed to an efficient service model.

New and extended roles

[Exploring the roles of nursing associates and theatre assistant practitioners in operating departments](#) Abstract only*

Nursing Management, 2025

Registered nursing associates have been deployed in operating departments in England since 2019, with theatre assistant practitioners (TAPs) being implemented in the early 2000s. However, there is little clarity over the roles and responsibilities of these two positions in theatres. This article details a service evaluation that was undertaken to explore the current roles and responsibilities of nursing associates and TAPs and to identify how they can be best employed to support effective care delivery.

[Changing faces within the perioperative workforce: New, advanced and extended roles](#) Abstract only*

Journal of perioperative practice, 30(10), 2019

The operating department like many other areas within healthcare is diversifying its workforce. Several new, advanced and extended roles have been integrated within the team. This article briefly outlines historical and current developments which have influenced the operating department workforce. It focuses on the following: Surgical Care Practitioner, Physician Associate, Anaesthesia Associates formerly known as Physician Assistant in Anaesthesia, Surgical First Assistant, Assistant Theatre Practitioner and Nursing Associates, highlighting the professional regulators, education and training, qualification and continuing professional development requirements.

What is the contribution of physician associates in hospital care in England? A mixed methods, multiple case study

BMJ Open 9(1), 2019

Objectives To investigate the deployment of physician associates (PAs); the factors supporting and inhibiting their employment and their contribution and impact on patients' experience and outcomes and the organisation of services. Design Mixed methods within a case study design, using interviews, observations, work diaries and documentary analysis.

New ways of working

The Clinical Pharmacist-Led Medication Review Service at the Surgical Department: A Feasibility Study

Scandinavian Journal of Caring Sciences 39(2), 2025

Aims: Clinical pharmacists often provide medication review services in hospital departments. Even though such services exist in several hospitals in Denmark, they have yet to be established on the Faroe Islands. This study aimed to assess the feasibility of a clinical pharmacist-led medication review service at the surgical ward of the National Hospital of the Faroe Islands.

Integrating a pharmacist into an anaesthesiology and critical care department: is this worthwhile? Abstract only*

International Journal of Clinical Pharmacy 41, 2019

Background Operating rooms and Intensive Care Units are places where an optimal management of drugs and medical devices is required. Objective To evaluate the impact of a dedicated pharmacist in an academic Anaesthesiology and Critical Care Department.

Non-medical workforce

The non-medical workforce and its role in surgical training: Consensus recommendations by the Association of Surgeons in Training

International Journal of Surgery 36(1), 2016

Changes in the delivery of the healthcare structure have led to the expansion of the non-medical workforce (NMW). The non-medical practitioner in surgery (a healthcare professional without a medical degree who undertakes specialist training) is a valuable addition to a surgical firm. However, there are a number of challenges regarding the successful widespread implementation of this role. This paper outlines a number of these concerns, and makes recommendations to aid the realisation of the non-medical practitioner as a normal part of the surgical team.

Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs)

Implementation of research, education and leadership placements into Operating Department Practitioner training: A 4-pillar practice-based learning approach

Journal of Perioperative Practice 35(5), 2025

Practice-based learning has traditionally focused on clinical practice in pre-registration courses. However, recent national strategies emphasise the importance of incorporation of all four pillars, clinical, education, leadership and research, into practice-based learning (placements). This article details the introduction of practice-based learning in research, education and leadership alongside clinical placements for BSc Operating Department Practice students at Sheffield Hallam University.

[Making the case for service user involvement in the operating department practice curriculum: A discussion paper](#)

Journal of Perioperative Practice 35(6), 2025

This article discusses the case for improving service user involvement in a UK-based operating department practice (ODP) degree programme. The term 'service user' is a broad phrase referring to those who use or are affected by the services of Health and Care Professions Council-registered professionals. In 2018, the Health and Care Professions Council set a mandatory requirement for service user engagement within all 15 HCPC-registered Allied Health Professions.

[Do the current continuous professional development approaches for registered nurses and operating department practitioners within perioperative care meet their learning needs?](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice, 2025

In the highly specialised and rapidly evolving field of perioperative care, continuous professional development is essential for maintaining the competencies of healthcare professionals, directly impacting patient safety and the quality of care. This project aimed to assess the effectiveness of current continuous professional development approaches in meeting the learning needs of registered nurses and operating department practitioners within perioperative care in a United Kingdom National Health Service Trust hospital.

[Sources of influence for choosing an operating department practitioner career: Findings from a questionnaire among students in England](#)

Journal of Perioperative Practice, 2024

AIMS: The aim of this study was to explore the sources of influence which impact choosing an operating department practitioner career among current operating department

practitioner students in England to inform recommendations for maximising recruitment and retention.

[London Operating Department Practitioner Advocacy Pilot Project](#)

Operating Theatre Journal (398), 2023

A successful pilot project was carried out earlier this year in London with the aim of strengthening the identity of Operating Department Practitioners (ODPs). A collaborative effort led by Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals on behalf of NHS England brought together Chelsea and Westminster, Kingston, Chase Farm, and Newham hospitals to participate in this important initiative. The primary objective of the project was to provide a permanent point of reference, namely the ODP board, for healthcare practitioners that would enable them to comprehend the fundamentals and essential aspects of the ODP profession. By doing so, the project was aimed at raising awareness, and to recognise the importance of this discipline within operating departments and beyond, ultimately leading to increased morale and retention among ODPs working in London.

[The Royal Navy Operating Department Practitioner: Perioperative care on land and sea](#) Abstract only*

30(6), 2020

Royal Navy Operating Department Practitioners are employed in a number of different roles, during peacetime, humanitarian aid operations and periods of war. In recent times, Royal Navy Operating Department Practitioners have deployed on active operations in addition to working in NHS hospitals at home in the United Kingdom. This article will explore the different avenues and experiences of Operating Department Practitioners who are currently serving in the Royal Navy. The reader will then also gain an insight into the different echelons of care provided by the Defence Medical Services to the United Kingdom Armed Forces and Allied Nations. The article will then consider the unique

experiences available to Royal Navy Operating Department Practitioners in this multi-faceted role which offers the opportunity to explore work patterns in different environments.

[The evolving roles of Operating Department Practitioners in contemporary healthcare: a service evaluation](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 30(3), 2020

A mixed method study was undertaken to capture quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the contemporary roles and skills of Operating Department Practitioners. The data provide evidence that Operating Department Practitioners take opportunities to widen their knowledge skills and practice, with over 37% of the sample completing a mentorship qualification and 14% having completed or studying towards a postgraduate or Master's Degree. The study provides evidence of the development in the roles of the Operating Department Practitioner and suggests that Operating Department Practitioners offer an eclectic mix of skills which are delivered in a variety of clinical settings.

[A review of Operating Department Practitioner students' experiences of clinical placements as a result of changing organisations in each academic year](#) Abstract only*

Author: Brown, Steven

Journal of perioperative practice, 29(3), 2019

Operating Department Practitioner students as part of their education undertake placements that enable them alongside their academic studies to meet the Health and Care Professions Council Standards of Proficiency; however, like all education providers there was an annual shortage of appropriate placements. As a result, the organisation involved in this review needed to explore an alternative approach to allocating clinical placements. In addition, the course team wanted to change how students gained their clinical skills and possibly increase their understanding of the Operating Department Practitioner role.

Traditionally the institution involved (like other Operating Department Practitioner education providers) placed students in one organisation for all of their clinical placements unlike other professions such as nursing who placed students in different areas.

[Belongingness: Student ODPs' learning experiences in clinical placements](#)

Journal of perioperative practice, 29(1-2), 2019

The aim of this qualitative study is to explore student operating department practitioners' (ODPs') experiences of belongingness in clinical placements. Belongingness has been shown to be significant for learning in clinical placements for student nurses and midwives. This study was designed to look specifically at student ODPs' experiences. Semi-structured interviews were conducted with eight student ODPs.

[The evolving roles of Operating Department Practitioners in contemporary healthcare: a service evaluation](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 30(3), 2019

A mixed method study was undertaken to capture quantitative and qualitative data in relation to the contemporary roles and skills of Operating Department Practitioners. The data provide evidence that Operating Department Practitioners take opportunities to widen their knowledge skills and practice, with over 37% of the sample completing a mentorship qualification and 14% having completed or studying towards a postgraduate or Master's Degree. The study provides evidence of the development in the roles of the Operating Department Practitioner and suggests that Operating Department Practitioners offer an eclectic mix of skills which are delivered in a variety of clinical settings.

[Exploring the professional development of the ODP role](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Operating Department Practitioners 2(7),2014
Considering the evolution of the contemporary operating department practitioner (ODP), this paper will explore the barriers and developments that have led to the ODP profession's current occupational position. Consideration and engagement with primary research will highlight perceptions of the role of the ODP from other health professions and the detrimental effect a practitioner's perspective can have on a profession as a whole. Further, changes to educational standards will be considered in relation to their application and the perceptual challenges from the healthcare community considered. A brief reflective approach to the challenges for developing roles, such as physician's assistant anaesthesia, will also be outlined in consideration of what lies ahead.

Retention

[Retention of surgical trainees in England](#) Abstract only*

Surgeon 21(4), 2023
Background: Surgical training is a competitive process attracting highly motivated clinicians. The National Health Service is currently facing long waiting lists and a workforce crisis yet there is a paucity of data regarding attrition of surgical trainees in England. This study aims to describe the attrition of surgical trainees from 2016 to 2021 and explore the relationship between specialty competition ratios and attrition rates.

Staffing

[Larger anesthesia practitioner per operating room ratios are needed to prevent unnecessary non-operative time than to mitigate patient risk: A narrative review](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Clinical Anesthesia 96, 2024

When choosing the anesthesia practitioner to operating room (OR) ratio for a hospital, objectives are applied to mitigate patient risk: 1) ensuring sufficient anesthesiologists to meet requirements for presence during critical intraoperative events (e.g., anesthesia induction) and 2) ensuring sufficient numbers to cover emergencies outside the ORs (e.g., emergent reintubation in the post-anesthesia care unit).

[Nurse understaffing associated with adverse outcomes for surgical admissions](#)

The British Journal of Surgery 111(9), 2024

BACKGROUND: Nurses play a crucial role in maintaining the safety of surgical patients. Few nurse staffing studies have looked specifically at surgical patients to examine the impact of exposure to low staffing on patient outcomes., METHODS: A longitudinal patient analysis was conducted in four organizations in England using routine data from 213 910 admissions to all surgical specialties. Patients' staffing exposures were modelled as counts of understaffed registered nurse and nurse assistant days in the first 5 inpatient days. Understaffing was identified when staffing per patient-day was below the mean for the ward. Cox models were used to examine mortality within 30 days of admission and readmission within 30 days of discharge. Generalized linear models were used to investigate duration of hospital stay and occurrence of hospital-acquired conditions.,

Supply

[Growing our own theatre staff: Practice development and education](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 28(5),2018

Royal Bournemouth & Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust engaged in a quality improvement project aimed at improving quality and safety in theatres. The improvements delivered were recruitment to full staffing template, reduction in

agency staffing to zero, and creating a theatre coordinator role to ensure safe staffing.

[Significant factors for work attractiveness and how these differ from the current work situation among operating department nurses](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Clinical Nursing 25(1-2), 2016

Aims and objectives: The aim was to examine significant factors for work attractiveness and how these differ from the current work situation among operating department nurses. A second objective was to examine the associations between age, gender, length of employment, work engagement, work ability, self-rated health indicators and attractiveness of the current work situation.

Surgical Hubs

[The impact of elective surgical hubs on elective surgery in acute hospital trusts in England](#)

Nature Communications 16(1), 2025

Elective surgical hubs at acute hospital trusts in England aim to increase productivity and efficiency in planned (elective) surgeries, reduce cancellations, and improve patient and staff experiences by ring-fencing care and focussing on High-Volume, Low Complexity (HVLC) surgeries. Using patient-level hospital data from April 2018 to December 2022, we evaluated the impact of new hubs (operational from 2019 onwards) and established hubs (operational before 2019) on trust-wide rates of total and HVLC elective surgeries using a generalised synthetic control methodology.

[Comparison of orthopaedic specialty registrar training opportunities in trusts with and without an elective surgical hub: a review of administrative data](#)

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2025

INTRODUCTION: During the COVID-19 pandemic in England,

orthopaedic surgery trainees experienced a reduction in training opportunities due to periods of elective surgery suspension. We aimed to explore training opportunities for orthopaedic trainees in trusts with and without access to an elective surgical hub., METHODS: This retrospective analysis of administrative data used eLogbook data for registrars who performed six high-volume, low-complexity orthopaedic procedures in NHS hospitals in England between April 2017 and March 2023.

Teamwork and culture

[Cultural and Organizational Resistance to Surgical Education Reform: A Narrative Review](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Surgical Education 82(9), 2025

Objective: A global transformation in surgical education is occurring toward competency-based frameworks, structured feedback systems, and faculty development initiatives. However, in hierarchical and culturally conservative environments, reforms often meet subtle yet persistent resistance. This review explored how cultural norms, institutional misalignment, and professional risks contribute to the failure or superficial adoption of educational reforms, with particular attention to Japan as a representative example of culturally conservative systems. Design and setting: A narrative review was conducted.

[Operating department practitioners and midwives: The undervalued obstetric care collaboration](#) Abstract only*

British Journal of Midwifery 26(11), 2018

More than one-quarter of births in the UK are reported to be by caesarean section, requiring the skills and expertise of operating department practitioners (ODPs) and midwives, an often-overlooked care collaboration. This reflective case study looks back at an experience that the author, a registered ODP, had as a third-year student. It provides an example of how a lack of understanding of roles and poor interprofessional communication

between the midwife and postoperative practitioner detrimentally affected a woman's care. The aim is to demonstrate areas for improvement and make recommendations highlighting the need for inclusive education and learning in perioperative obstetric care.

[Building an effective and efficient theatre team and harnessing its power](#) Abstract only*

Journal of Perioperative Practice 28(5), 2018

Medway Maritime Hospital (MMH) is Kent's largest and busiest hospital serving a local population of 406,000 people. The local population has a large proportion of high socioeconomic deprivation resulting in a high demand on medical services compared to the surrounding hospitals. We have a range of specialities including general, colorectal, urology, orthopaedics, ear, nose and throat, gynaecology, vascular and emergency sub-specialities.

[Developing high-reliability multiprofessional teams in the operating theatre: a national initiative](#)

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (Supplement) 95, 2013

Operating theatres and interventional suites are complex, dynamic environments in which the delivery of safe healthcare is fraught with challenge. There can be significant and harmful consequences to the patient's wellbeing if a procedure does not progress as intended. This potential hazard may arise in response to having to manage a high volume of cases or when performing lengthier, technically challenging procedures. Additional factors include the urgency of the procedures involved, and the potential for staff members' lack of familiarity with one another, the task itself, and any associated technologies involved in the care provided.

[Surgical teams: role perspectives and role dynamics in the operating room](#) Abstract only*

Author(s): Leach et al.

Source: Health Services Management Research 24(2), 2011
Observations of surgical teams in the operating room (OR) and interviews with surgeons, circulating registered nurses (RNs), anaesthesiologists and surgical technicians reveal the importance of leadership, team member competencies and an enacted environment that encourages feelings of competence and cooperation. Surgical teams are more loosely coupled than intact and bounded. Team members tend to rely on expected role behaviours to bridge lack of familiarity. While members of the surgical team identified technical competence and preparation as critical factors affecting team performance, they had differing views over the role behaviours of other members of the surgical team that lead to surgical team performance.

[Does teamwork improve performance in the operating room? A multilevel evaluation](#) Abstract only*

The Joint Commission Journal of Quality and Patient Safety 36(3), 2010

Background: Medical care is a team effort, especially as patient cases are more complex. Communication, cooperation, and coordination are vital to effective care, especially in complex service lines such as the operating room (OR). Team training, specifically the TeamSTEPPS™ training program, has been touted as one methodology for optimizing teamwork among providers and increasing patient safety. Although such team-training programs have transformed the culture and outcomes of other dynamic, high-risk industries such as aviation and nuclear power, evidence of team training effectiveness in [health care](#) is still evolving.

Technology

[The use of extended reality in anesthesiology education: a scoping review](#) Abstract only*

Canadian Journal of Anesthesia 72(3), 2025

Purpose: Extended reality, an umbrella term for virtual, augmented, and mixed reality, is increasingly used in health care education as it requires fewer human and logistical resources and offers reduced costs compared with high-fidelity simulations. Nevertheless, the impact of extended reality on education and training in anesthesiology is largely unknown. We aimed to explore the existing extended reality tools and applications in anesthesiology, identify current knowledge gaps, and highlight future research needs in anesthesiology education.

[Immersive robotic colorectal training in the United Kingdom is safe and efficient](#)

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2025

INTRODUCTION: With increased utilisation of robotics in surgery, the demand for structured training is increasing. This paper presents the safety and efficacy profile of a robotic colorectal fellowship in the United Kingdom., METHODS: This is a retrospective study conducted in a district general hospital between 2019 and 2023. Procedures performed using the Da Vinci robot were divided into two cohorts, those performed by robotic fellows and those performed by consultant surgeons. Each fellowship lasted on average six months and at the end of the fellowship the trainee had completed the mandatory requirements to be certified as a robotic surgeon. The objective of this study is to compare the outcomes of procedures performed by the fellows with those performed by consultants.

[Key management factors influencing the acquisition of surgical robots in healthcare organisations: A scoping review](#) Abstract only*

International Journal of Healthcare Management, 2025

Background: Robot-assisted surgery (RAS) is one of the most significant innovations in modern surgery, with its market share expected to grow annually. Existing research highlights key management factors influencing healthcare organizations' decisions to adopt RAS. This study aims to conduct a scoping review to synthesize these management-related factors for comprehensive analysis.

[Expectation vs reality: A case study of the impact of the da Vinci surgical robot on healthcare professionals' work experiences](#)

Social Science & Medicine (1982) 383, 2025

In recent years, considerable academic attention has been devoted to the use of new technology in the healthcare sector. However, there is limited empirical knowledge about how everyday professional work is affected or how professionals actually experience these changes. This article assesses the introduction of the da Vinci surgical robot in the colorectal surgery department of a National Health Service Hospital in England. It argues that the impact of technology on healthcare workers is not predetermined by the characteristics of a technology and should be understood as a combination of positive and negative experiences in specific, highly contextualised workplace settings.

[Virtual reality technology for surgical learning: qualitative outcomes of the first virtual reality training course for emergency and essential surgery delivered by a UK-Uganda partnership](#)

BMJ Open Quality 13(1), 2024

INTRODUCTION: The extensive resources needed to train surgeons and maintain skill levels in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) are limited and confined to urban

settings. Surgical education of remote/rural doctors is, therefore, paramount. Virtual reality (VR) has the potential to disseminate surgical knowledge and skill development at low costs. This study presents the outcomes of the first VR-enhanced surgical training course, 'Global Virtual Reality in Medicine and Surgery', developed through UK-Ugandan collaborations

[Acceptance and use of extended reality in surgical training: an umbrella review](#)

Systematic Reviews 13(1), 2024

Background: Extended reality (XR) technologies which include virtual, augmented, and mixed reality have significant potential in surgical training, because they can help to eliminate the limitations of traditional methods. This umbrella review aimed to investigate factors that influence the acceptance and use of XR in surgical training using the unified theory of acceptance and use of technology (UTAUT) model.

[Surgery in the 2020s: Implications of advancing technology for patients and the workforce](#)

Future Healthcare Journal 7(1), 2020

As the surgical workforce, surgical techniques and patient expectations change, the Royal College of Surgeons of England is actively engaged in taking forward the recommendations of its Future of Surgery Commission. Here the commission's chair articulates the implications for smaller hospitals and the need for achieving interoperability and safe sharing of patient data across different systems, so enabling immediate access to patients' records across healthcare organisations; extension of regulation to surgical care practitioners, reflecting the recent decision to regulate physician associates and physician assistants; introducing a UK-wide registry of surgical devices, with tracking for implantable devices; implementing a robotics strategy to help the NHS plan and purchase new surgical robotics, as well as monitor their use and the effect on outcomes; and investing in

genomic medicine and artificial intelligence for diagnostics, and in stem-cell research for treatment.

Up-skilling

[Operating theatre nurses' experiences in medical emergency response: An integrative literature review](#)

Journal of Perioperative Nursing 38(1), 2025

Aims: This study aims to review the experiences of instrument and circulating nurses in responding to intra-operative medical emergencies. Background(s): The operating theatre is a complex environment where surgical procedures are performed by surgical teams who are often required to adapt to rapidly changing circumstances. Although most surgeries are uneventful, medical emergencies can occur. Instrument and circulating nurses play pivotal roles in patient safety during the intra-operative phase. However, research into their experiences dealing with medical emergencies is limited, highlighting the need for a better understanding of their perspectives and identifying areas where additional training and support may be required.

[Operating theatre nurses; self-reported clinical competence in perioperative nursing: a mixed method study](#)

Nursing Open 6(4), 2019

Aims: The aim of this study was to investigate how operating theatre nurses (OTNs) self-rated their clinical competence and describe their experience of important factors for the development of clinical competence in perioperative nursing. Design: A cross-sectional study with a mixed-method approach was chosen. Data were collected through a modified version of the questionnaire Professional Nurse Self-Assessment Scale of Clinical Core Competence I, which was supplemented with an open-ended question. Methods: Data were collected from 303 operating theatre nurses in Sweden. Statistics analysis was used

to identify the relationship between the participants' background variables

[The effect of continuing professional education on perioperative nurses' relationships with medical staff: findings from a qualitative study](#) Abstract only*

Author(s): Susan L. Tame

Source: Journal of Advanced Nursing 69(4) pp. 817-827

Publication date: June 2012

Aims. To report perceived changes to UK perioperative nurses' relationships with medical staff following periods of formal, university-based study. Background. Continuing professional development is considered important for nursing internationally; however, practice changes may not result following formal study. The literature did not describe perioperative nurses' experiences of formal study, and it was believed differences may exist due to hierarchical interprofessional relationships in the operating theatre.

Workforce

[A census of general surgery consultants in England and Wales: implications for the current and future surgical workforce](#) Full text available with NHS OpenAthens account*

Annals of the Royal College of Surgeons of England 106(2), July 2023

Introduction: This study aimed to describe the composition of the current general surgical consultant body in England and Wales and quantify levels of inequality within it as well as describe future workforce challenges.

Competency Frameworks

[Core Competency Framework for Anaesthetic Practitioners 2024](#)

Turas Learning NHS Education for Scotland

[The Core Competency Framework for Anaesthetic Practitioners 2024](#) sets out the core competencies that

registered nurses, preparing for the role of anaesthetic practitioner in NHSScotland must achieve. This work-based development demonstrates that they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to work at a minimum level of competency.

[Standards of Proficiency: Operating Department Practitioners](#)

Health & Care Professions Council, September 2023

These standards set out safe and effective practice in the professions we regulate. They are the threshold standards we consider necessary to protect members of the public. Professionals must meet all the standards of proficiency to register with us and meet the standards relevant to their scope of practice to stay registered with us.

[The Curriculum Framework for the Surgical Care Practitioner](#)

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Surgeons of England, 2022

The Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCS England) and the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCS Edinburgh) began a combined project entitled 'Supporting the Extended Surgical Team' to reflect our commitment to the development of this group of the surgical workforce as their role is vital to the delivery of safe surgical care to patients. The first part of this combined project has been to support the greater recognition of Surgical Care Practitioners (SCPs) with this revision of the curriculum for the MSc degree in surgical care practice as well as seeking formal regulation from the General Medical Council. The first edition of the SCP curriculum was published in 2006 and revised in 2014. This revision has been undertaken not only

to update the 2014 curriculum but also to meet the General Medical Council's standards for the development and design of postgraduate medical curricula set out in Excellence by Design. The focus of this revision has been to promote the development and learning for the trainee SCP based largely in the workplace. The format of the curriculum reflects the clinical pillar of advanced practice with both knowledge and clinical skills as well as technical skills supplemented by case studies and qualitative analysis. It also includes the other three pillars of advanced practice, namely leadership and management, education and research. As a result, the successful SCP will graduate with an MSc in surgical care practice, which will enable the SCP to work in an advanced role within the surgical team.

National Core Curriculum for Perioperative Nursing

PCC, 2017

It is the aim of this curriculum to provide a nationally recognised route for career progression for all perioperative nurses. It will also enable registered nurses, new to theatres to gain a nationally recognised Higher Education Institute (HEI) perioperative qualification as part of this Master's route. For those nurses who wish to work in theatres, but who do not have a level 6 (degree level) qualifications, it is suggested that a BSc (Hons) route should also be offered, which includes the core competencies of this curriculum.