



OR Etiquette

Pre-op

- 30-45 minutes before scheduled surgery start time, introduce yourself to the patient

Go the OR that you will be in and do the following things:

- Wear a facemask and surgical cap while in the room
- Introduce yourself to the nurses in the room
- Write your name, student year, and pager number on the whiteboard in the room (ex. John Smith, MS3, pager 9408)
- If you know the resident/fellow who will be with you, write his/her name on the board too
- Ask the circulating or scrub nurse if they would like you to grab a gown and gloves for yourself
- Pull up relevant imaging on the computer in the room
- Stay near the patient so that you are also around when the resident/fellow and attending see the patient
- Introduce yourself to the attending surgeon. **DO NOT DO THIS IN FRONT OF THE PATIENT**
- Help anesthesia wheel the patient back to the OR

In the OR

- Help with patient transfer from pre-op bed to operating table
- Bring their pre-op bed outside of the room
- When scrubbing, never finish scrubbing before your attending does
- Do not touch the Mayo stand—this is a sure-fire way to get yelled at by a scrub tech
- Do not try to “intercept” instrument exchanges between scrub techs and surgeons
- If suture material is being used, ask the scrub tech for suture scissors
- Do not ask to suture. If the attendings and residents are feeling patient, they will ask you if you would like to suture
- Keep your facemask on until everyone else in the room has taken theirs off
- Ask anesthesia if it is okay to grab the patient’s bed from outside the room
- Help anesthesia wheel the patient to the post-op area

Post-op

- Write brief op-note
- Make sure orders are in place for fluids, diet, analgesia, and DVT prophylaxis
- Perform post-op check 3-4 hours after operation