



AORN CENTER OF EXCELLENCE IN SURGICAL SAFETY: PREVENTION OF RSI

Scope of Program Delivery

The RSI program education should be provided to any full-time personnel accountable for or involved in counting processes to prevent unintentionally retained surgical items. This includes personnel in departments that perform operative or other invasive procedures where unintentionally retained surgical items could occur (Table 1). You may exclude part-time, contractual, and travel nurses. This list is intended to provide guidance but is not intended to be all-inclusive. Facility and department leaders should help determine the personnel who require the education based on the services provided in the facility. For instance, an urban-based academic medical center with multiple departments and services will provide the program education to a more diverse group of personnel than a free-standing ambulatory surgery center. Personnel that may be included in the program are outlined in Table 2.

Table 1. Health Care Organization Departments Associated with RSIs¹⁻³

- Operating Room Departments [eg, hospital-based, ambulatory surgery centers]
- Post Anesthesia Care Units
- Labor and Delivery Department
- Interventional Radiology Department
- Endoscopy Department
- Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory
- Electrophysiology Laboratory
- Emergency Department
- Intensive Care Units
- Outpatient Clinics [eg, Urology Clinics]
- Inpatient Units

References

1. Steelman VM, Shaw C, Shine L, Hardy-Fairbanks AJ. Retained surgical sponges: a descriptive study of 319 occurrences and contributing factors from 2012 to 2017. *Patient Saf Surg.* 2018;12(1):20.
2. Steelman VM, Thenuwara K, Shaw C, Shine L. Unintentionally retained guidewires: a descriptive study of 73 sentinel events. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2019;45(2):81-90.
3. Steelman VM, Shaw C, Shine L, Hardy-Fairbanks AJ. Unintentionally retained foreign objects: a descriptive study of 308 sentinel events and contributing factors. *Jt Comm J Qual Patient Saf.* 2019;45(4):249-258.

Table 2. Potential Personnel

- Perioperative RN Circulators, PACU RNs, L&D RNs, IR RNs, Cardiac Cath Lab RNs, Endoscopy RNs, EP lab RNs, Wound Care RNs, and other identified nurses that are involved in invasive procedures or care of patients with therapeutic packing in a surgical wound [eg, counted sponges, negative pressure wound therapy devices with foam dressings, or guidewire placement].
- Scrub Personnel [eg, RNs, LPNs, LVNs, STs]
- First Assistants [eg, Fellows, Residents, RNFAs, APRNs, PAs, STSAs, Students that suture)
- Surgeons, Interventionalists, Obstetricians, and other physicians performing invasive procedures with countable items. *May enroll in the education or sign the waiver.*
- Anesthesia Providers [eg, Anesthesiologists, Nurse Anesthetists, CRNAs, Anesthesia Assistants] *May enroll in the education or sign the waiver.*