

***Surgical Technology for the Surgical Technologist A
Positive Care Approach 5th edition Association of
Surgical Technologists Test Bank***

SKU: 9781305956414-TEST-BANK

Chapter 02: Legal Concepts, Risk Management, and Ethical Issues

1. Which of the following is an example of an intentional tort pertaining to surgical patient care?

- a. A patient suffers a burn due to hot instruments.
- b. Restraints are used on a patient who threatens to leave.
- c. A tissue specimen is misplaced by a transporter.
- d. A retained surgical sponge is discovered in subsequent procedure.

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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2. Which of the following legal doctrines would MOST likely apply in the case of a wrong site surgery or retained foreign body?

- a. aeger primo
- b. caveat emptor
- c. primum non nocere
- d. res ipsa loquitur

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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3. The phrase “departure from the standard of care” BEST describes which of the following legal terms?

- a. larceny
- b. liability
- c. malpractice
- d. negligence

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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4. Which of the following legal terms is BEST described as “professional misconduct that results in harm to another”?

- a. allegation
- b. liability
- c. malpractice
- d. negligence

ANSWER: c

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POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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5. What is the term that describes a method of pretrial discovery in which a surgical team member might answer questions under oath?

- a. allegation
- b. deposition
- c. indictment
- d. precedent

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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6. Which of the following torts would be classified as unintentional?

- a. battery
- b. defamation
- c. foreign bodies left in patient
- d. invasion of patient privacy

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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7. Which type of consent applies when emergency circumstances exist when reasonable providers believe that a patient would agree to treatment, even if no form was signed or verbal permission given?

- a. direct
- b. implied
- c. informed
- d. general

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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8. A special consent form would be required for which of the following situations during a hospital admission?

- a. chest x-ray
- b. phlebotomy
- c. respiratory therapy
- d. surgical procedure

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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9. All of the following are components of the surgical patient's medical record EXCEPT:

- a. anesthesia record
- b. history and physical
- c. interdepartmental communications
- d. surgeon's preference card

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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10. Which member of the surgical team is ultimately responsible for obtaining a written, informed surgical consent from a patient?

- a. anesthesia provider
- b. circulating RN
- c. surgeon
- d. surgical technologist

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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11. In 2004, which of the following agencies created the "Do Not Use" abbreviation list?

- a. the Joint Commission (JC)
- b. American Medical Association (AMA)
- c. Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)
- d. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)

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ANSWER: a
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
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12. What is the name of the type of report sent to risk management in an effort to decrease the chance of harm to patients or staff or damage to hospital property?

- a. advance directive
- b. informed consent
- c. Safe Medical Device Act
- d. sentinel event

ANSWER: d
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
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13. Which of the following surgical patients would be legally authorized to sign an informed surgical consent, based on medical practice acts and state law?

- a. premedicated competent adult
- b. adult in a persistent vegetative state
- c. an emancipated 16-year-old minor
- d. a foreign language speaker without an interpreter

ANSWER: c
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
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14. Which of the following pertains to a patient's wishes about medical treatment and self-determination in the event of incapacitation or inability to communicate?

- a. advance directive
- b. deposition
- c. informed consent
- d. sentinel event

ANSWER: a
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
HAS VARIABLES: False

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15. Which of the following terms best describes the process of keeping thorough, accurate, and legal records of a patient's medical care?

- a. accountability
- b. consent
- c. documentation
- d. liability

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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16. All of the following carry the force of state or national legal enforcement EXCEPT:

- a. implementation of the neutral zone
- b. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- c. Patient Self-Determination Act
- d. scope of practice

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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17. The American Hospital Association replaced its "Patient's Bill of Rights" with which of the following?

- a. doctrine of personal liability
- b. Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act
- c. Patient Self-Determination Act
- d. Patient Care Partnership

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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18. The broad objectives of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) include all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. eliminate medical errors

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- b. improve patient services
- c. protect patient privacy
- d. reduce health care fraud

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

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19. Which of the following terms describes a civil wrong that may be intentional or unintentional?

- a. complaint
- b. indictment
- c. liability
- d. tort

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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20. The most common types of patient-care errors committed by operating room personnel, including negligence and malpractice, are categorized as:

- a. intentional torts
- b. corporate liability
- c. unintentional torts
- d. standard of care

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

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21. In a common adage, what is the “best medicine” in health care?

- a. conscience
- b. documentation
- c. judgment
- d. prevention

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

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22. According to the Joint Commission's definition regarding consent to surgical intervention, which party has "autonomy"?

- a. anesthesia provider
- b. circulating RN
- c. the patient
- d. the surgeon

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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23. Which of the following terms describes the system of moral principles and rules that become standards of conduct for professionals?

- a. doctrines
- b. ethics
- c. morals
- d. precedents

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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24. Which of the following terms describes the principles such as benevolence, trustworthiness, and honesty for the care and well-being of others in society?

- a. doctrines
- b. ethics
- c. morals
- d. precedents

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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25. Which of the following would NOT be considered an example of a potential ethical dilemma?

- a. patient privacy
- b. genetic engineering
- c. elective abortion
- d. right to die, termination of care

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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26. The legal term that identifies the knowledge and skills required for a profession and describes a health care provider's core accountability, based on education, experience, and credentialing is:

- a. professional liability
- b. policies and procedures
- c. recommended standards of practice
- d. scope of practice

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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27. Which of the following is NOT a form of individual professional credentialing that protects the public from unqualified health care providers?

- a. accreditation
- b. certification
- c. licensure
- d. registration

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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28. Verification that educational programs meet minimum accreditation standards is done by:

- a. AST
- b. CAAHEP
- c. HIPAA
- d. NBSTSA

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ANSWER: b
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
HAS VARIABLES: False
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29. Graduates of CAAHEP or ABHES programs are eligible to sit for the CST or CSFA examinations administered by:
- a. ARC/STSA
 - b. AST
 - c. CSPS
 - d. NBSTSA

ANSWER: d
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
HAS VARIABLES: False
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30. The best assurance of safe and individual professional behavior by the CST or CSFA is a well-developed, unyielding:
- a. core curriculum
 - b. liability insurance
 - c. scope of practice
 - d. surgical conscience

ANSWER: d
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
HAS VARIABLES: False
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31. Which legal doctrine would be MOST applicable in a case involving failure by the RN and CST to do proper surgical counts resulting in retention of a foreign object and the surgeon being found not liable?
- a. captain of the ship doctrine
 - b. doctrine of borrowed servant
 - c. doctrine of corporate negligence
 - d. primum non nocere

ANSWER: b
POINTS: 1
QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice
HAS VARIABLES: False
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32. Which legal doctrine would be MOST applicable in a case involving injury to a patient as a result of a hospital employee's lack of proper training or credentialing?

- a. captain of the ship doctrine
- b. doctrine of borrowed servant
- c. doctrine of corporate negligence
- d. primum non nocere

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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33. Which type of legal action is MOST likely in cases involving tort law and operating room personnel?

- a. civil
- b. criminal
- c. federal
- d. statutory

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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34. If a patient suffered a burn as a result of improper application of the ESU dispersive (grounding) pad, the individual team member responsible may be found guilty in a lawsuit of which of the following?

- a. assault
- b. battery
- c. intentional tort
- d. negligence

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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35. Specimen loss, mislabeling, and improper preparation are examples of which of the following?

- a. battery
- b. defamation
- c. intentional tort

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d. negligence

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

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36. Which of the following terms meets the following definition: a voluntary and informed act in which one party gives permission to another party to “touch”?

a. advance directive

b. battery

c. consent

d. time-out

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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37. Which of the following forms of consent is defined by the Joint Commission as “agreement or permission accompanied by full notice about what is being consented to”?

a. general

b. implied

c. informed

d. special

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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38. Surgical team members who fail to monitor and protect a medicated patient from falling could be charged with:

a. abandonment

b. assault

c. battery

d. larceny

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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39. Which part of the patient's medical record documentation would contain pre-op and post-op diagnoses, positioning, skin prep, start and stop times, counts, and dressings?

- a. advance directive
- b. anesthesia record
- c. informed consent
- d. intraoperative record

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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40. For which of the following processes are identification and reporting of unsafe conditions and hazards MOST critical?

- a. advance directives
- b. informed consent
- c. risk management
- d. unintentional torts

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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41. Which of the following was identified in the late 1990's as causing more deaths in the United States than car accidents, AIDS, and breast cancer combined?

- a. equipment manufacturing flaws
- b. H1N1 influenza
- c. medical errors
- d. terrorist attacks

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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42. What is the name of the organization whose focus is on patient and worker safety and is a unique coalition of surgeons (ACS), anesthesiologists (ASA), operating room (AORN) and perianesthesia (ASPAN) nurses, CRNAs (AANA), surgical physician assistants (AASPA), and surgical technologists (AST)?

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- a. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- b. Council on Surgical and Perioperative Safety (CSPS)
- c. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- d. the Joint Commission (TJC)

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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43. What is establishing a neutral zone designed to do?
- a. diffuse potential violence in high-stress situations
 - b. prevent sharps injuries during surgical procedures
 - c. reduce cross-contamination in the OR suite
 - d. quarantine patients with airborne diseases

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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44. Which governmental agency has authority as outlined in the Safe Medical Device Act?
- a. EPA
 - b. FDA
 - c. HIPAA
 - d. OSHA

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

HAS VARIABLES: False

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45. The first scrub surgical technologist performs intraoperative tasks under the broad delegatory authority of the:
- a. anesthesiologist
 - b. circulating RN
 - c. OR supervisor
 - d. surgeon

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: Multiple Choice

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46. "Captain of the ship" doctrine holds the surgeon accountable for all actions of the operating room team in lawsuits.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: True / False

HAS VARIABLES: False

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47. A surgical technology student who photographs a patient and posts the image on the Internet could be sued for invasion of privacy and HIPAA violation.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: True / False

HAS VARIABLES: False

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48. General consent is obtained by patients admitted to the hospital and covers all routine services and medical treatment in broad terms but not invasive procedures such as surgery.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: True / False

HAS VARIABLES: False

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49. Living will and durable power of attorney are examples of advance directives in health care.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: True

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: True / False

HAS VARIABLES: False

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50. Errors in chart documentation should be erased to prevent confusion by subsequent caregivers.

a. True

b. False

ANSWER: False

POINTS: 1

QUESTION TYPE: True / False

HAS VARIABLES: False

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Match each term below with its description.

a. Plaintiff

b. Malpractice insurance

c. Defamation

d. Aeger primo

e. Precedent

f. Larceny

g. Patient

h. Allegation

i. Criminal negligence

j. Primum non nocere

k. Code of conduct

l. Iatrogenic injury

m. Accreditation

n. Time-out

o. Medical record

p. Credential

q. Federal law

r. Guardian

s. Intentional tort

t. Assault

QUESTION TYPE: Matching

HAS VARIABLES: False

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51. An injury resulting from the activity of health care professionals

ANSWER: 1

POINTS: 1

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52. Reckless disregard for the safety of another; willful indifference

ANSWER: i

POINTS: 1

53. Taking another's property without consent

ANSWER: f

POINTS: 1

54. A statement one expects to prove true

ANSWER: h

POINTS: 1

55. "Above all, do no harm."

ANSWER: j

POINTS: 1

56. Willful, intentional acts that violate the civil rights of a patient

ANSWER: s

POINTS: 1

57. Slander or libel that damages a person's reputation or good name

ANSWER: c

POINTS: 1

58. An act that causes another person to fear that he or she will be touched in an offensive, insulting, or physically injurious manner without consent or authority to do so

ANSWER: t

POINTS: 1

59. Prior to start of a procedure; all members of surgical team verify correct patient, procedure, site, and side.

ANSWER: n

POINTS: 1

60. Court-appointed protector for an individual incapable of making his or her own decisions

ANSWER: r

POINTS: 1

61. Jurisdiction is given to courts in cases involving the interpretation and application of the U.S. Constitution, acts of Congress, and treaties

ANSWER: q

POINTS: 1

62. The individual who initiates a lawsuit

ANSWER: a

POINTS: 1

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63. Legal principle, created by a court decision, that provides an example of authority for judges deciding similar issues later

ANSWER: e

POINTS: 1

64. "A person who receives health services from a health care provider and who gives consent for the provider to provide those services."

ANSWER: g

POINTS: 1

65. The combined account of the interaction between the patient and the health care providers during a given incidence of illness or treatment.

ANSWER: o

POINTS: 1

66. Professional liability coverage to cover discrepancy between hospital and individual policies in negligence lawsuits

ANSWER: b

POINTS: 1

67. Professional rules and standards of behavior that include principles such as impartiality, objectivity, duty of care, and confidentiality and disclosure

ANSWER: k

POINTS: 1

68. Title used that establishes a minimum knowledge base for a given health care profession

ANSWER: p

POINTS: 1

69. Assessment of educational programs for quality and effectiveness and used as a criterion for eligibility to sit for a national certification examination

ANSWER: m

POINTS: 1

70. The motto used by AST, meaning "The Patient First"

ANSWER: d

POINTS: 1