



SATS

South African Theatre Nurse
operating and trading as South African Theatre Sister

SATS POSITION STATEMENT

ROLE AND PRESENCE OF HEALTH INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVE IN THE OPERATING ROOM

SATS recognizes the rapid change in technology, and the ongoing need for training, in new procedures, technology and techniques continuously. We acknowledge that the healthcare industry representatives, by virtue of their training and expertise, can provide valuable assistance to the surgeon and the peri-operative practitioner. This will enhance and support the desired positive outcomes of the surgical intervention.

We admit and acknowledge the role of the healthcare industry representative in the maintenance of patient safety and safe surgery. We encourage and demand that the privacy and confidentiality of the patient be respected when the healthcare industry representative is present, during a surgical procedure, and that all legal guidelines are adhered to as required by the Health Act. (See new Health Act)

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT SATS RECOMMENDS:

That each facility should develop a policy to ensure compliance, to the structured system implemented in the facility for the presence of unlicensed people.

That strict adherence be implemented according to HASA guidelines of 2008

That the expertise of risk management Managers is used, and that all applicable laws are considered when developing a policy for the presence of the health industry representative in the operating room

That the policy includes, and addresses emergency and routine procedures.

That a policy on informed patient consent regarding the presence and the role of the health industry representative is implemented and records kept

That the responsibility of obtaining the patients consent rests with the representative and the surgeon.

That the representative introduces himself to the surgical team prior to the commencement of the procedure.

That the representative discusses the procedure, the technique and equipment to be used, with the surgical team prior to commencement.

That the employer of the representative provides proof that the representative has undergone the required training in the principles of asepsis, safety protocols, infection control and patient confidentiality procedures.

That the representative wears identification and reports to the operating room Manager before the scheduled procedure.

That the peri-operative practitioner in her role as the patient's advocate monitors the actions of the representatives and guides him/her during the surgical intervention.

That the peri-operative practitioner be informed of the representative's presence prior to commencement of the procedure.

That a record be kept, in the theatre register of the presence and assistance of the representative.

The representative is not allowed to scrub or take the table, and that definite boundaries are set on the limits of the involvement and participation of the representative

That the health industry representative completes all documentation as required by the health institutions, and patient safety rules before leaving the operating room

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