PERIOPERATIVE NURSE Entry Program
WELCOME! I am excited that you are considering a career in Perioperative Nursing. Our mission at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center is to provide extraordinary care where the patient comes first, supported by world class education and research. Our Perioperative Nurse Entry Program is designed to empower you with the knowledge and skills that are necessary to be an advocate for patients and their family members during their perioperative experience. Interested nurses will have a passion for perioperative nursing and providing care to our surgical patients. I hope this brochure answers some of your questions about the Perioperative Nurse Entry Program. If you need further information, please contact the individuals listed in this brochure.

Elena G. Canacari, RN, CNOR
Associate Chief Nurse, Perioperative Services

About the Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Perioperative Nurse Entry Program

The Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center Perioperative Nurse Entry Program is focused on providing preparation and education to Registered Nurses who have graduated from a college/university with a BSN. Nurses are either recent graduates or have been previously employed in non-Operating Room nursing positions. The 24 week program consists of strategic and innovative approaches to utilize instructive and autonomous on-line learning, simulation, as well as concurrent clinical practice in the operating room with a dedicated preceptor. Nurses learn the foundational skills of perioperative nursing using AORN Periop-101™ with a resulting validation of 26 specific fundamental skills. The program will be run twice a year.

Perioperative Nurses in the Operating Room at BIDMC care for patients in a wide variety of surgical subspecialties. A full list of their specialties and their locations are listed to the right.

Role & Responsibilities of a Perioperative Nurse

The perioperative nurse has two distinct roles, one as the circulating nurse and the other as the scrub nurse. The responsibilities for the circulating nurse include but are not limited to managing the personnel, delegating to assistive personnel, equipment, supplies and the environment during the surgical procedure.

The circulating nurse role includes patient care, assessment, advocacy, as well as assisting the anesthesia team, and positioning. The circulating nurse manages the flow of information and documentation of the care process.

The scrub nurse role is responsible for assisting the surgical team, which includes the surgeon and assistants. Functions of the scrub role include managing instrumentation, maintaining the sterile field, and the safe handling of sharps. This role is based on knowledge of anatomy and the sequence of the surgical procedure to facilitate and anticipate the needs of the surgeon and the assistant.
What you will learn

During this program, you will learn how to deliver direct care to patients during a surgical procedure in the OR. Most important, you will understand your responsibility to advocate and protect the patient while he/she is unable to do so for themselves.

Nurses in the BIDMC Perioperative Nurse Entry Program Are Full-time Employees

These positions have full benefits

- 40 hours a week
- After completion of the program, nurses work rotating shifts and take call

Necessary Qualifications of a Perioperative Nurse

- College graduate with a BSN
- Articulates a passion for perioperative nursing
- Enjoys a challenge and being part of a team
- Is highly motivated and sets high standards for self
- Has a strong belief in the role of the nurse as both care-giver and protector
- Communicates effectively
- Pays attention to detail
- Is able to navigate a computer

BIDMC Perioperative Nurse Entry Program

Week 1:
Introduction to BIDMC Perioperative Nurse Entry Program, Administrative Orientation, Understanding and accessing the AORN Periop101™ Educational Platform

Week 2:
Introduction to the scrub role, basic instrumentation and aseptic technique (Clinical Observation Experience and Didactic Education)

Week 3:
Scrubbing with Preceptor. Introduction to Perioperative Safety (didactic and simulation components)

Week 4:
Focus on Perioperative Patient and Family Education as well as Perianesthesia Nursing

Week 5:
Safe Use of Surgical Equipment, Skin Asepsis and Patient Positioning (Didactic and simulation components)

Week 6:
Transitioning from classroom to OR. Beginning practice in the role of the Circulating Nurse in the Perioperative Environment with Preceptor

Weeks 7-10:
Phase 1 Clinical Orientation: Circulate and Scrub basic cases with preceptor, begin specialty rotations per service line

Weeks 11-17: Phase 2:
Clinical Orientation: Surgical specialty rotations (both roles): with preceptor per service line

Weeks 18-26: Phase 3
Clinical Orientation: Scrub and Circulate in assigned service line with preceptor to foster independence and observations in other perioperative departments including CPD, Shadowing a Nurse Anesthetist and all PeriAnesthesia Areas (Preadmission Testing Clinic, Pre-op Area and Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)

Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
(working hours and location)

West Campus
Rosenberg Clinical Center 5
19 rooms, Staffed 24/7

East Campus
Feldberg and Shapiro
20 rooms, Staffed M-F 7am- 9:30pm

Application Process

If you are interested in joining the BIDMC Perioperative Nurse Entry Program, you will need to apply online through www.jobs.bidmc.org when the requisitions are available. Following your application, selected candidates will be invited to an evening Open House to learn more about the program by listening to clinical leadership, meet past participants, and tour a simulated operating room.

We will conduct panel interviews and determine candidates for reference checks. If you are selected for the program, you will attend New Hire Orientation with all new BIDMC employees before starting the Perioperative Nurse Entry Program. Should you have questions on the application process, please reach out to Laura Robinson, Sr. Talent Acquisition Partner for Perioperative Services, at lrobins3@bidmc.harvard.edu.
**Staff Testimonials**

**Elyssar Saad BSN, RN**
Clinical Nurse 1, CVI OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Fall 2015
“The BIDMC Perioperative Clinical Nurse Entry Program was not only a series of lectures and orientation to the OR, but an introduction to supportive colleagues and educators that guided me from the student role to the professional Nurse. I ascertained all of the skills and responsibilities of a perioperative nurse but also how to care for patients holistically, as well as to act as their advocates during some of their most vulnerable times. My preceptor went above and beyond to teach me all the right ways to practice and made sure I felt supported and a part of the team.”

**Alexandra Seifollahi BSN, RN**
Clinical Nurse 1, West OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Fall 2015
“Periop 101™ provided the foundation of theory and knowledge for me to care for my patients. As I participated in the BIDMC Perioperative Clinical Nurse Entry Program, I was able to develop and test new skills in a safe environment. The didactic modules provided theory and best practices, while the group meetings allowed for discussion and application within the context of BIDMC enabling me to translate knowledge and skills into clinical practice. My experience would have been overwhelming without participating in a structured program to acquire the competency needed to be a perioperative nurse and ensure patient safety. Learning how to multitask, to protect the patient intraoperatively and to understand each person’s role in the Operating Room gave me the confidence to begin my career.”

**Caleigh Pacy BSN, RN**
Clinical Nurse II, East OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Spring 2014
“The Periop 101 program was the best decision I made for my career. The program gave me the tools to excel in a field that I love and ensure that I provide my patient’s with the safest care possible.”

**Joan Canavan BSN, RN**
Clinical Nurse II, East OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Spring 2014
“I became interested in Perioperative nursing when I worked in the Beth Israel Hospital Operating room as a Northeastern Cooperative nursing student. I was able to scrub a variety of cases and found my calling. Upon graduation, I worked in critical care, before I found my way back to the operating room. I am now back where it started. The BIDMC Perioperative Clinical Nurse Entry Program prepares you to function in the operating room and give your patients the best care during their surgery. It was invaluable to me as I learned the role of circulating nurse. It provided a sound knowledge base for care of the perioperative patient during surgery and an introduction to both the advanced technology and the processes unique to the operating room.”

**Jeffrey Keane BSN, RN, CNOR**
Unit-based Educator, West OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Spring 2007
“The core education of Periop 101™ provides the learner with the tools needed to build a strong perioperative practice. As a novice periop nurse I was able to use the modules to help build a strong foundation that I currently use in practice today. I always felt supported through the program which has allowed me to grow into a leadership position at BIDMC.”

**Kelly Gamboa BSN, RN**
Clinical Advisor, Orthopedics & Neurosurgery, West OR
BIDMC Perioperative Entry Program
Fall 2004
“I thought the periop program did a great job of balancing the classroom education portion with the hands on clinical experience. The simulation room was a great way to practice the basics of the OR and familiarize yourself with gowned, gloved and draping. Our periop instructors and preceptors were instrumental in guiding and supporting my team through this challenging transition to our new role as OR nurses. I remember how good it felt to be coached, guided and supported by my leadership to succeed in this role. These actions are what inspired me to be that pillar for my fellow nurses through my role as Clinical Advisor.”