



## Health Career Directory

### Operating Room Technician (ORT)

#### Overview:

Operating room technicians (ORT) are licensed practical nurses with advanced skills who provide assistance to surgeons, nurses and other medical personnel during a surgery. Often called scrubs or surgical technologists, operating room technicians handle a variety of responsibilities: setting up surgical instruments before a surgery, transporting patients to the operating room and assisting surgeons with surgical procedures (i.e., passing instruments, holding retractors, cutting sutures, etc.).

An ORT is someone who wants to be part of the fast-paced and dramatic world of the operating room. They have a key role in creating an operating environment that is safe for patients and that runs smoothly for the surgeons and nurses.

ORTs most important duty is being an assistant to the surgeon. The surgeon relies heavily on an ORT to do their job well, while also being able to handle requests that are made during the surgery.

ORTs must be able to handle pressure calmly, stand on their feet for long periods of time, and enjoy working in a team environment.

This profession is exciting and the employment opportunities are growing throughout the health care industry. This occupation pays well and highly stimulating and interesting since no two days are the same.

#### What do Operating Room Technicians do?

Operating room technicians prepare patients for surgery. They help in the preparation of the operating room. They also help the surgical teams to prepare for the operating room.

Some of the main duties of an ORT are to:

- Prepare patients by washing, shaving, and sterilizing patients' operative areas
- Assist in the preparation of the operating room by laying out instruments and setting up equipment
- Clean and sterilize operating room equipment and instruments
- Help the surgical team members with gowns and gloves
- Pass instruments to surgeons during surgery and count surgical instruments before and after surgery
- Help prepare specimens taken for laboratory analysis

- Operate sterilizers, lights, or suction machines and help operate some diagnostic equipment

### **Who is suited to become an Operating Room Technician?**

Operating Room Technicians are most effective when they have the following skills and characteristics:

- they want a career in the medical field
- they Like organization and routine
- are Very methodical in their personalities
- have a keen interest towards careful cleaning
- have an excellent memory
- like working in a face paced environment
- like biology and physiology
- can stay calm under pressure or in tense situations.

### **Who Employs ORTs?**

Operating Room Technicians work in the operating rooms in acute/hospital settings, in both rural and urban settings as part of the interdisciplinary team. In BC, they are employed by one of the six Health authorities/employers. They work shift hours, alternating weekends, and are often on call for emergency procedures.

### **Salary**

Salary Range - \$24.01 - \$32.59 per hour/\$42,000 - \$63,000 annually

### **Required Training and Education to Become an Operating Room Technician**

To become an ORT, you must have a current registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia and completed an approved program for Operating Room Technician.

After completing a licensed practical nurse program from one of the recognized colleges or universities in Canada, you must also pass the Canadian Practical Nurse Registered Exam. This is so that you can become fully licensed and be eligible for registration with the College of Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia Canada (CLPNBC).

### **Career Advancement**

A career as an ORTs offers endless opportunities to learn, grow, advance and change your career direction.

After graduating from a Licensed Practical Nursing program, you may choose to do advance training to become an operating room technician or get further education to become a registered nurse working in the operating room.

Whatever your interest – working with children, science and technology, teaching, promoting healthy practices, or developing your leadership skills – ORT has endless opportunities for you.

## Resources

### Education Programs

Cambridge College

<http://www.medicollege.com/programs/surgical-technologist/info/index9361.html?HTISession=81bfb634103b88963e6a3c634e0a872c>

McEwan University

<http://www.macewan.ca/wcm/SchoolsFaculties/HCS/Programs/PerioperativeNursing-LPN/index.htm>

Mohawk College

<http://www.mohawkcollege.ca/continuing-education/registered-practical-nurse-operating-room-nursing.html>

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology

[http://www.siastr.sk.ca/programs\\_courses\\_descriptions/PNL.shtml](http://www.siastr.sk.ca/programs_courses_descriptions/PNL.shtml)

### Education Programs for Licensed Practical Nurses

Camosun College

<http://camosun.ca/>

Canadian Healthcare Academy

<http://www.chcabc.com/>

CDI College

<http://www.cdicollege.ca/>

College of New Caledonia

<http://www.cnc.bc.ca/>

College of the Rockies

<http://www.cotr.bc.ca/>

Discovery Community College

<http://discoverycommunitycollege.com/>

North Island College

<http://www.nic.bc.ca/>

Northern Lights College

<http://www.nlc.bc.ca/>

Northwest Community College

<http://www.nwcc.bc.ca/>

Okanagan College

<http://www.okanagan.bc.ca/>

SprottShaw Community College  
<http://www.sprottshaw.com/>

Steinberg College  
<http://www.stenbergcollege.com/>

Thompson Rivers University  
<http://www.tru.ca/nursing.html>

University of the Fraser Valley  
<http://www.ufv.ca/home.htm>  
Vancouver Career College  
<http://www.vccollege.ca/>

Vancouver Community College  
<http://www.vcc.ca/>

Vancouver Island University  
<http://www.viu.ca/>

### **Financial assistance and bursaries**

For information about Canada student loans and grants, please visit:

[http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada\\_student\\_loan/index.shtml](http://www.hrsdc.gc.ca/eng/learning/canada_student_loan/index.shtml)

### **Association**

College of Registered Licensed Practical Nurses of British Columbia  
<http://www.clpnbc.org/>