

NAASP Mission Statement:

“ *The National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice will promote high quality surgical care by meeting the needs of the patient through continuity and the development of skilled, competent healthcare professionals.* ”



The National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice



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What is a
SURGICAL CARE PRACTITIONER?

Free copies of this leaflet can be downloaded at:
www.naasp.org.uk



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The role of the Surgical Care Practitioner

Surgical Care Practitioners are registered healthcare professionals who are employed by a hospital to work as members of a surgical team under the supervision of a consultant surgeon.

Surgical Care Practitioners work in many surgical specialities including general surgery, orthopaedics, gynaecology, cardiac surgery and urology. They undertake a wide range of duties within the outpatient department, operating theatre and surgical ward.



What is a surgical care practitioner?

“ A non-medically qualified practitioner, working in and out of the operating room, who performs surgical intervention under the supervision of a consultant surgeon ”
The National Association of Assistants in Surgical Practice 2005



Surgical Care Practitioners are NOT doctors; however they are qualified practitioners who have gained additional education and training, many were originally nurses, physiotherapists or Operating Department Practitioners. They are employed as one of the key members of the surgical team and are clinically responsible to the consultant surgeon helping to ensure that every operation is as safe and effective as possible.

What does a Surgical Care Practitioner do?

Surgical Care Practitioners provide high standards of care and clinical skills working alongside the surgeon. Surgical Care Practitioners may undertake your assessment before surgery, see you in the operating theatre and/or after your operation in the outpatient clinic.

They assist the surgical team during your operation and may carry out minor surgical procedures. The Surgical Care Practitioner may also be involved in your after care and subsequent follow up in the outpatient department.

The Surgical Care Practitioner helps in providing continuity of care for you, the surgical patient, and is identified to you as a named practitioner from first patient contact to final discharge.

As one of the permanent members of the surgical team the Surgical Care Practitioner provides a link with the doctors, theatre staff, clerical staff and other members involved with your care.