

What are typical numbers of nursing staff per case ("skill mix") in the United States?

Generally, in the US, there is one registered nurse and one surgical technologist or, in some cases, a second RN, per operating room. The circulator (RN) is busy drawing up medications, obtaining supplies and equipment, and so forth. The scrub nurse (surgical technologist or RN) is passing instruments, suture, and other supplies to the surgeons. When a laser is being used, during a liver transplant or burn case, when there is a second sterile table, and so forth, often then there will be another registered nurse in the theatre. For some procedures, a nurse or physician assistant may assist the surgeon. However, this is not my area of expertise. For more information on your question, [click here](#) to be forwarded to OR Manager, and [click here](#) for the Association of periOperative Registered Nurse.

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