The AOTrauma Competencies for Operating Room Personnel

The education taskforce has identified the following competencies for this area of practice:

1. Ensure that the patient is adequately prepared for the procedure
2. Prepare and maintain the optimal intra-operative environment and surgical field
3. Demonstrate and ensure optimal communication and successful teamwork
4. Position the patient to allow best surgical access whilst maintaining the patient’s safety
5. Define the basic principles of fracture fixation and biology to ensure effective nursing management of the procedure
6. Demonstrate correct use of instruments and proper surgical application
7. Promote standards of best practice for occupational health and safety

A competency is a combination of attributes underlying professional performance. It is the combination of knowledge, skill, or attitude that enables a physician to actively perform in his or her practice setting. Practically, a competency describes what the physician must be able to do to provide patient care, addressing the common and critical problems that may arise.