

Operating Room (OR)

Kalispell, MT

About our OR department:

- **How many beds:** At our Main OR department, we have 10 OR suites, and at our 'North' OR department we have 6 OR suites.
- **Patient demographics:** We take care of the full range of patients from a few hours old pediatrics to the geriatric populations.
- **Schedules and call requirements:** Our staffing model includes most RN/CSTs on 10 hour shifts or 12 hour shifts. The staff cover call shifts approximately 1 weekend a month and roughly 2-3 week nights per month.



Common treatments and skill sets/procedures:

The specialties that are provided at Logan Health Medical Center include: heart, vascular, thoracic, robotics, general, urology, neurosurgery, pediatrics neurosurgery, pediatrics, orthopedics, gynecology, podiatry, breasts, plastics, ear-nose-throat (ENT), and dental.



Qualities of an OR nurse:

The nurses that succeed in the operating room are detail oriented and skilled at multitasking and prioritization. They must be able to communicate effectively with staff members of other specialties, including the surgeons, anesthesiologists, surgical techs, radiology and several others throughout the day to coordinate patient care. Circulating RNs utilize their organizational skills to prioritize the patient needs, while also coordinating the needs of the surgical team during procedures. Nurses who thrive in fast-paced and high stress situations are perfect for this position.

A Day in the Life of Our Unit:

The OR team meets for huddle in the morning to discuss specialty instructions for the day and new announcements. Staff set up in their assigned room and prepare for the first case of the day. The circulating RN goes to pre-op to interview the patient and will bring the patient back to the operating room. The RN assists anesthesia with intubation and extubation during a procedure. The RN is the patient advocate during each procedure. The RN will assist with positioning and prepping the surgical site. The circulator will prep the sterile field with any supplies or needs that they have during a procedure. Documentation is performed by the circulator, including supplies, implants, present staffing and surgical counts.

The OR is known for being a fast-paced team environment. Our team recognizes the value of every member's contribution, fostering a sense of camaraderie and mutual respect. The surgeon, anesthesia, RN, scrub tech, and support staff all work together and continuously collaborate to provide the best care for patients. There are high stress cases and challenges when dealing with emergencies and these situations create a family-like support system. Hard work and dedication are recognized and appreciated, and we take the time to celebrate each other and the milestones and contributions that are achieved. We strive to create a positive culture and boost morale for our team by providing free soup daily to our staff and with frequent recognition and feedback.

