



**South African Nursing Council**  
(Under the provisions of the Nursing Act, 2005)

e-mail: [registrar@sanc.co.za](mailto:registrar@sanc.co.za)  
website: [www.sanc.co.za](http://www.sanc.co.za)

**SANC Fraud Hotline: 0800 20 12 16**

Cecilia Makiwane Building,  
602 Pretorius Street, Arcadia,  
Pretoria, 0083

Tel: 012 420-1000  
Fax: 012 343-5400

Private Bag X132, Pretoria, 0001  
Republic of South Africa

**EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES: POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA IN ORTHOPAEDIC NURSING**

**TABLE 1: FOUNDATIONAL EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES WITH ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

<b>Exit level outcomes</b>	<b>Associated assessment criteria</b>
<p><b>1.</b> Practice within the ethical-legal parameters of the nursing profession, and resolve professional-ethical dilemmas by using decision making and moral reasoning models.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Critical decision-making and moral reasoning models are used to guide clinical practice and resolve professional-ethical dilemmas within Orthopaedic nursing practice.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> The relevant latest legislation, policies, protocols, regulations, guidelines, directives and applicable ethics regarding Orthopaedic nursing are applied in practice.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> The professional/ ethical legal frameworks guide the practice of the Orthopaedic Nurse Specialist.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Practice and facilitate advocacy for the patient's best interests.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Ethical codes, professional accountability, responsibility, confidentiality and standards for the practice of orthopaedic nursing are interpreted and applied consistently and correctly.</p>
<p><b>2.</b> Apply knowledge of basic research methodology in the appraisal of articles in the field of Orthopaedic nursing.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Academic writing skills are demonstrated in research reports.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Research articles in the field of Orthopaedic nursing are appraised through the application of basic knowledge of research methodology.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Qualitative, quantitative and mixed method research designs are accurately differentiated.</p> <p><b>2.4</b> Evidence-based practice of research findings are integrated for safe, effective and efficient practice.</p>

**TABLE 2: CORE EXIT LEVEL OUTCOMES WITH ASSOCIATED ASSESSMENT CRITERIA**

Exit level outcomes	Associated assessment criteria
<p><b>The Orthopaedic Nurse Specialist will:</b></p>	
<p><b>3.</b> Demonstrate advanced knowledge of Orthopaedic nursing care of patients in a variety of clinical settings, to promote health outcomes.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Health outcomes are promoted through the demonstration of knowledge of Orthopaedic nursing care in a variety of clinical settings.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Epidemiological data pertaining to Orthopaedic nursing is interpreted and used to plan a community awareness programme/ campaign.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Legislation, policies and guidelines relevant to the care of orthopaedic patients are identified, debated and recommendations communicated to authorities.</p> <p><b>3.4</b> Strategies are identified to ensure that the human rights of orthopaedic patients are respected.</p> <p><b>3.5</b> Best available evidence is used to plan a healthy environment for orthopaedic patients throughout the levels of healthcare.</p> <p><b>3.6</b> The influence of the social, political, cultural and economic developments within the country on the provision of orthopaedic care is debated, and recommendations communicated to authorities with the ultimate goal of improving Orthopaedic nursing.</p> <p><b>3.7</b> Suitable injury/ condition-specific assessment techniques for orthopaedic patients are explored and debated to improve health outcomes.</p> <p><b>3.8</b> Biomedical, pharmacology and psycho-social sciences are used to explain the interpretation of health assessment findings and management of conditions affecting orthopaedic patients.</p> <p><b>3.9</b> Subjective and objective assessment is interpreted and explained in order to make nursing diagnoses.</p> <p><b>3.10</b> Comprehensive<sup>1</sup> individual, people-centred inter-professional treatment plans are based on assessment findings and standardised national and contextually appropriate guidelines.</p>

---

<sup>1</sup> Comprehensive care refers to promotion of health, prevention of disease, curative and rehabilitative care

	<p><b>3.11</b> Care priorities are established in relation to the orthopaedic patient's problems and severity, with due consideration of system and practice challenges.</p> <p><b>3.12</b> The health status of the orthopaedic patient is continuously monitored, interpreted and actions are planned within an inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>3.13</b> The rationale and safety measures of technology used in assessing and treating orthopaedic patients are explained and debated.</p> <p><b>3.14</b> Care pathways and the referral system are explored and debated.</p> <p><b>3.15</b> Legislative and care standards are used to evaluate records of orthopaedic patients.</p> <p><b>3.16</b> Accuracy of data pertaining to orthopaedic care is evaluated.</p>
<p><b>4.</b> Render and coordinate comprehensive Orthopaedic nursing care to patients in a variety of health care settings, in order to promote health outcomes.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Health outcomes are promoted through rendering and coordinating specialist Orthopaedic nursing in a variety of healthcare settings.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Community awareness campaigns are based on epidemiological data pertaining to orthopaedic care.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> The human rights of orthopaedic patients are respected.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> A healthy environment for orthopaedic patients of different ages across the health continuum, which is based on best available evidence and resources, is created and sustained.</p> <p><b>4.5</b> Subjective and objective assessment is performed competently in order to make a nursing diagnosis.</p> <p><b>4.6</b> Clinical reasoning is demonstrated by considering social determinants of health and all relevant clinical findings in order to make a diagnosis.</p> <p><b>4.7</b> Comprehensive individual, people-centred treatment plans are executed and coordinated competently within an inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>4.8</b> Severity of an orthopaedic patient's injury/condition is calculated according to standardised tools, and optimal interventions are executed within the limitations of the system and practice.</p>

	<p><b>4.9</b> The health status of the orthopaedic patient is continuously monitored, interpreted and acted on within an inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>4.10</b> Technology is used appropriately and safely in ways that facilitate diagnosing and treatment of the orthopaedic patient.</p> <p><b>4.11</b> Principles of health dialogue are used to negotiate the treatment plan with the patient and family.</p> <p><b>4.12</b> Care pathways and the referral system are used appropriately.</p> <p><b>4.13</b> Records of orthopaedic patients are audited to evaluate the standard of care against protocols.</p> <p><b>4.14</b> Orthopaedic data (statistics) are captured accurately and utilised to improve orthopaedic nursing practice.</p>
<p><b>5.</b> Apply scientific knowledge and principles of the systematic review and guideline development process, in order to evaluate and review the standard of guidelines used in orthopaedic nursing practice.</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Current evidence-based guidelines used in Orthopaedic practice are evaluated and reported at predetermined times to improve health care.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Academic and professional writing skills are demonstrated in reports and guidelines.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Research questions are formulated according to the PICO and other formats.</p> <p><b>5.4</b> Evidence-based practices are critically appraised and best practice guidelines are adopted to improve health care service delivery.</p> <p><b>5.5</b> Databases are searched by using <i>Boolean</i> and other information search strategies.</p>
<p><b>6.</b> Apply principles of evidence-based care to ensure quality orthopaedic nursing care.</p>	<p><b>6.1</b> Quality of patient care and safety in Orthopaedic nursing are promoted by implementing evidence-based practice.</p> <p><b>6.2</b> Use systematic reviews to improve client experience and outcomes in orthopaedic nursing care.</p> <p><b>6.3</b> Quality audits aimed at improving patient services are performed at predetermined times.</p> <p><b>6.4</b> Critique, develop and implement clinical standards for orthopaedic nursing care.</p>

	<p><b>6.5</b> Patient outcomes in orthopaedic nursing, including quality patient care and safety, are continuously monitored.</p>
<p><b>7.</b> Implement strategies to develop self and peers by promoting self-directedness through a process of precepting and mentoring.</p>	<p><b>7.1</b> Precepting and mentoring processes are applied to develop self and peers.</p> <p><b>7.2</b> Activities towards enhancing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) are evident.</p> <p><b>7.3</b> Thinking/reasoning processes of self and others are developed through facilitation of learning.</p> <p><b>7.4</b> Learning theories are applied in own development and the development of others.</p> <p><b>7.5</b> A positive learning environment is created by supporting peers and novices.</p> <p><b>7.6</b> Academic networks are established and used to sustain personal development.</p>
<p><b>8.</b> Manage orthopaedic nursing services by implementing effective medico-legal norms, practices and standards within an inter-professional team</p>	<p><b>8.1</b> Orthopaedic health services are managed according to medico-legal norms, practices and standards within an inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>8.2</b> Appropriate leadership styles are demonstrated within the orthopaedic inter-professional team.</p> <p><b>8.3</b> Shared decision making opportunities regarding orthopaedic services are created and documented.</p> <p><b>8.4</b> Benchmarks and best practices are accessed and used to develop indicators for quality and cost effectiveness in orthopaedic nursing.</p> <p><b>8.5</b> Resources are mobilized and utilized to optimize orthopaedic nursing.</p> <p><b>8.6</b> Reporting pathways are used optimally.</p> <p><b>8.7</b> Referral/ care pathways are analysed and optimized.</p> <p><b>8.8</b> The activities of the inter-professional team within orthopaedic nursing care are well coordinated.</p> <p><b>8.9</b> Morbidity and mortality data of of orthopaedic care is used to guide decision making.</p>