FAQs about careers in operating department practice

This page has some frequently asked questions about careers in operating department practice

- What areas can operating department practitioners (ODPs) work in?
- What is the difference between an ODP and a theatre nurse?
- Where can I find more information about working as an ODP?

What areas can operating department practitioners (ODPs) work in?

ODPs work mainly in operating theatres as part of a team that includes surgeons [1], anaesthetists [2], theatre nurses [3], healthcare assistants [4], theatre support staff [5] and porters [6]. Increasingly, you'll find ODPs working in other critical care areas of hospitals too.

What is the difference between an ODP and a theatre nurse?

The way that you train is different for an ODP compared with that of a theatre nurse, but opportunities to develop your career in the theatre environment are virtually identical.

Find out more about the work of ODPs [7]

Find out more about the work of theatre nurses [3]

Where can I find more information about working as an ODP?

There's more information about working and training to become an operating department practitioner on our explore roles pages [8].

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