



Martha McKirdy

Registered General Nurse -Adult

Expert Witness

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Registered Nurse - Theatre & Surgical First Assistant

General Background

Martha McKirdy is a Registered Nurse and Surgical First Assistant who qualified in 1999. Her background includes extensive experience in operating theatres across both NHS and private sector settings from 2006 to the present.

She has worked across a broad range of surgical specialities, including orthopaedics, general surgery, urology, gynaecology, vascular surgery, and ear, nose and throat (ENT).

Since 2019, Martha has worked as a Surgical First Assistant, supporting surgeons across these specialities and contributing to safe, efficient, and high-quality surgical procedures.

Work History

- **1999–2004:** Began her nursing career with six months on an orthopaedic day surgery ward, followed by three years in orthopaedic theatres as a trainee theatre nurse.
- **2006–2016:** Worked in a busy NHS theatre department, gaining experience in multiple surgical disciplines and roles within the perioperative environment.
- **2016–present:** Currently employed at a local private hospital, providing comprehensive perioperative care for patients undergoing planned surgery. She is also part of the emergency on-call rota.
- **2020–2021:** Contributed to the national COVID-19 vaccination effort, administering vaccines and supervising unqualified vaccinators and volunteers.

Professional Qualifications

- Registered Nurse - Homerton College, Cambridge, (1999)
- Mentorship Module - Staffordshire University, (2010, level 6)
- Research Module - Staffordshire University (2010, level 6)
- Surgical First Assistant Qualification - De Montfort University, (2019, level 6)

Clinical Training

Immediate Life Support
Moving and Handling (including unconscious patients)
Fire Evacuation and Safety in Theatre
Blood Transfusion Practices
National Early Warning Score (NEWS) assessment
Adult & Children Safeguarding (level 3)
Mental Capacity Act
Information Governance
Consent to Examination or Treatment
Health Record Keeping
Infection Prevention and Control
Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS)
Managing Sharps and Splash Injuries
Official Reporting of Incidents

Clinical Skills

Martha has extensive experience in supporting the patient's journey through the operating department, including:

Preparation of the operating theatre for surgery
Collecting patients and transferring to theatre
Anaesthetic room care (third person only)
Transferring patient on and off operating table
Positioning of patient on operating table
Application and use of venous thrombo-embolism (VTE) prevention equipment
Use of diathermy including mono and bipolar, application of pads and use of diathermy mattress
Preparing and dressing for a scrub nurse role
Preparing and dressing for a surgical first assistant role
Scrubbing techniques and practices including:
 swab and instrument counts
 managing surgical equipment
 safety aspects of scrub role – protection of nurse and patient – maintaining asepsis
 safe disposal of sharps
 safe disposal of drugs including orthopaedic bone cement
First assistant techniques and practices including:
 Skin prepping
 Draping
 Retraction
 Camera holding
 Use of suction
 Use of diathermy
 Suture cutting
 Application of dressings
Safe and appropriate handover of patient to recovery staff.
Preparation and mixing of local anaesthetic drugs
Not experienced in:
Open heart/chest surgery
Transplant surgery
Tumour surgery
Paediatric surgery

Expert Witness Background

Associated with AMG Consultancy Services Ltd since 2025. Experience gained in NHS and independent theatre settings, with extensive involvement in perioperative care across a wide range of surgical disciplines. Skilled in the assessment of clinical procedures, patient safety, compliance with surgical protocols, and theatre team roles.

Martha has experience in reviewing case notes, identifying breaches in standards of care, and understanding intraoperative risks and outcomes. Her detailed knowledge of theatre practice, combined with her first-hand experience as both scrub nurse and Surgical First Assistant, informs her ability to deliver clear and objective expert witness reports.

(Awaiting attendance of the Bond Solon Certificated Legal Training Courses: “Excellence in Report Writing” and “Courtroom Skills – Witness Familiarisation”)

Memberships

- Nursing & Midwifery Council (NMC) - Registered
- Royal College of Nursing (RCN)
- Association for Peri Operative Practice