Declared Purpose:

The following purpose is for the Level 3 Diploma in Perioperative Support (4223-16), (QAN no: 501/2238/1). This is a Technical Level qualification.

This Level 3 Diploma in Perioperative Support is a qualification which recognises learners’ skills and knowledge to work in support roles in a variety of healthcare environments. Learners will gain a qualification which enables them to gain more responsibility as a perioperative support worker, to complete an advanced apprenticeship, or progress onto a specialised qualification in this area.

Who is this qualification for?

This qualification is for learners who work or want to work as a perioperative support worker, assisting nurses, doctors and surgeons in surgeries and operating rooms.

Most learners will already be employed as healthcare assistants in health environments, and will have gained a Level 2 qualification in Clinical Healthcare Support or equivalent.

What does the qualification cover?

A learner studying this qualification will receive a broad understanding required to provide assistance to different healthcare professionals. The following areas are a mandatory part of this qualification:

- Understanding the worker’s role and responsibilities
- Protecting patients from unsafe practice and abuse
- Preventing and controlling infection.

People starting this qualification will generally be working in a supporting role within operating theatre departments, and gain skills and knowledge about this work:

- Provide support to the surgical team when preparing people for and during operations.
- Measure and record patients’ body fluid balance in a perioperative environment
- Prepare anaesthetic environment and provide support before and after sedation
- Keeping the equipment and operating area clean and safe.

What opportunities are there for employment or progression after I have finished studying this qualification?

Many learners take this qualification as part of an Advanced Apprenticeship in Health (Perioperative Support) (England), and will continue to work as perioperative or theatre support workers with more responsibilities assigned to them by the professionals they work alongside. This can include management or supervision of other team members.

This qualification will also give you the basic skills to enable you to work in a supporting role in a range of related departments in hospitals/healthcare
After completing this qualification, you could study the Level 5 Diploma for Assistant Practitioners in Healthcare to enable you to work in health environments at a more senior level.

To become a qualified professional, learners must go on to take a degree-level qualification to enable them to register as an Operating Department Practitioner.

Further information can be found on our website and within the qualification handbook: http://www.cityandguilds.com/Courses-and-Qualifications/health-and-social-care/health/4223-healthcare-and-support-services/level-3