



Perioperative Nurses Association of Queensland Inc

ADVANCING PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

WHO's Safe Surgery Saves Lives Initiative

..... by Education Chair, Edwina Conroy

Some of you may be aware of the second surgical safety initiative launched by WHO (World Health Organisation) called "Safe Surgery Saves Lives". This replaces the Correct Site Surgery alert. (*Oh no, I hear you groan!*)

The initiative revolves around addressing key safety issues in the perioperative environment. These include improving anaesthetic practices, ensuring correct site surgery, avoiding surgical site infections and improving communication in the operating room.

So why does WHO feel there is a need to disrupt our workplace and try and implement processes that add so much angst to our daily routine I hear you ask?

WHO's statistics show that in industrialised countries major complications occur in 3% to 16% of surgical inpatient procedures. In the United Kingdom in 2007 there were 129,419 incidents reported with almost 10,000 of these cases resulting in either moderate to severe harm and 270 of them resulting in death. (*WOW! Glad that doesn't happen here! Or could it?*)

To help Operating Rooms reduce the number of surgical patient incidents WHO has developed a set of ten standards that can be ap-

plied within any healthcare setting including dental surgeries, radiology departments or anywhere surgical procedures are performed.

These ten steps are:-

1. The team shall operate on the correct patient at the correct site
2. The team will use methods known to prevent harm from anaesthetic administration, while protecting the patient from pain
3. The team will recognise and effectively prepare for life threatening loss of airway or respiratory function
4. The team will recognise and effectively prepare for risk of high blood loss
5. The team will avoid inducing any allergic or drug reaction known to be a significant risk for the patient
6. The team will consistently use methods known to minimise risk of surgical site infection
7. The team will prevent inadvertent retention of instruments or swabs in surgical wounds
8. The team will secure and accurately identify all surgical specimens
9. The team will effectively communicate and exchange critical patient information for the safe conduct of the operation
10. Hospitals and public health systems will establish routine surveillance of surgical capacity, volume and results

WHO insists the safety checklist is not a regulatory device but is a tool to be used by clinicians who are interested in reducing unnecessary complications and surgical deaths. And surely that is the goal of **all** personnel working in the Perioperative area.



Edwina moderating at the 2008 PNAQ State Conference

For more information go to <http://www.who.int/en/>

www.pnaq.net.au

PNAQ goes Green

Would you like to access your PNAQ newsletter via the web site and help the environment?

Send your Email address to The Secretariat at pnaq@pnaq.net.au

February 2009

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Welcome to the first edition of the PNAQ newsletter for 2009.....by PNAQ President Jennifer Ashton

The start of a new year provides a time to reflect and review on the past and taking all that is good - and lessons learnt - to set new directions and goals for new times. Our PNAQ New Years resolutions were formulated at the State Branch planning workshop on Saturday 17 January at The Prince Charles Hospital. We began with setting and reaffirming a vision to underpin the planned commitments and activities of the state branch Executive and Committee members.



Sonya Vargas & Jenny Ashton at the 2008 State Conference

As 48% of the PNAQ membership works in the metropolitan area, we are keen to ensure a substantial general meeting and education program is available based on feedback received. We look forward to huge support of these functions with dates

available on the PNAQ Calendar, located on the website

www.pnaq.net.au.

Any PNAQ member is most welcome to attend these sessions.

The focus of support to Branches is also a priority; and Ailsa Gillett, as Country Liaison and ACORN Director, is looking

forward to attending at least one of your meetings in person. Teleconferencing can also be arranged, so please send your meeting dates as soon as they are



Peta McIntyre & Vicki Livett at drinks following the managers forum

available to The Secretariat at pnaq@pnaq.net.au.

We had a magical conference at Hyatt Coolom in 2008 thanks to the efforts of Kathy Flannigan and her hard working committee. Evaluations revealed the Fistula Connection presentation by Dr Judith Goh, Urogynaecologist, was the standout paper of the conference. Judith outlined her holistic surgical work in countries such as Ethiopia, Liberia, Congo, Bangladesh and Serria Leonie, where she spends 6 months of each year. Recent attention on this type of work in the Australian media has focused on Dr Catherine Hamlin who established the Hospital by the River and at 88 years of age continues to operate and train doctors and nurses to perform fistula surgery. Judith is continuing with this important service to women. She detailed how the injuries are caused from prolonged, obstructive labour with extensive bladder and bowel involvement often resulting in total urinary (and faecal) incontinence. The before and after pictures of the patients attest to the profound impact surgery makes to the womens physical and emotional health.

We were extremely proud to launch the first Australasian perioperative nursing text book at the Conference and to have the Editors and some of the authors of the chapters on hand to discuss the process from idea to publication. Congratulations are due to all involved with the book.

It is a great read and already a valuable resource.

The Perioperative Team Award for 2008 went to the Northside Perioperative Inductory Program Consortium which includes perioperative nurses, managers and educators from Nambour, Caboolture, Redcliffe, Royal Brisbane & Women's, Royal Children's and The Prince Charles Hospitals.

Our 2009 Conference Convenors, Vicki (Horatio) Livett and Anne Marie (Gill) Allanson are deep in plans for our CSI: PNAQ extravaganza. Calls for abstracts and details can be found at the website

www.pnaq.net.au Do check this site on a regular basis as Kim Carr, Website Coordinator, is constantly updating information and details.

We continue to advance our Green Initiative to send you an electronic newsletter via a members only section on the website. To ensure this happens, please email your current details to The Secretariat at pnaq@pnaq.net.au so we can send you the link.

Can you be our PNAQ contact person at your hospital? If so, we would love to hear from you as we often have to send information to organisational addresses and wonder if this ever reaches those on the floor. We are also planning some special activities to celebrate perioperative nursing and wish to include as many hospitals as possible in this initiative. What a great time to be a Perioperative Nurse!

Welcome New PNAQ Inc. Committee Members

PNAQ Conference Convenor (shared)



Clinical Scene Investigation Profiles



Name: Anne Maree Allanson
Occupation: Clinical nurse – Redcliffe Hospital
 Perioperative Introductory Program Coordinator
 Queensland Health
Employer: Queensland Health
Work History: 30 years Operating Theatre Experience -
 Mater Public Hospital, The Prince Charles Hospital,
 St Andrew's Hospital, Peninsula Private Hospital,
 Private Assistant & Redcliffe Hospital,
 Midwifery – Redcliffe Hospital
Other Activities: Raising two children
CSI Commitment: Shared Conference Convenor- 2009-2010
2009 Mission A fantastic state conference!

PNAQ Newsletter Editor

Linda Spitzer has joined PNAQ as the editor of our newsletter. She is registered nurse and works part-time as an educator at The Wesley Hospital in Brisbane.

"I wanted to be involved in PNAQ as I believe it is an important and vital organisation for the development of perioperative nursing in Queensland. I hope I can help ensure the newsletter is informative and enjoyable for all members."



PNAQ Conference Convenor (shared)



Clinical Scene Investigation Profiles



Name: Vicki Livett
Occupation: Nurse Unit Manager- Paediatric Perioperative Services
Employer: Mater Adults, Mothers & Childrens Hospitals, Sth Brisbane
Work History: 16 years Operating Theatre Experience-
 Redcliffe Hospital, Royal Children's Hospital, Royal Brisbane & Women's Hospital, Mater Hospital.
PNAQ: Minute Secretary 2000-2001, PNAQ President 2002-2004 , ACORN Count Standard Review 2002-2005
Other Activities: Operation Smile Volunteer since 2003- Clinical Coordinator for Missions , Medical Advisory Committee Member
 Heading to India March 09 for Surgical Mission
CSI Commitment: Shared Conference Convenor- 2009-2010
2009 Mission A fantastic state conference!

2009 PNAQ Inc Membership Drive Competition

Join PNAQ NOW and WIN

2 for 1 membership & the ACORN Standards!!

New members joining before 31 March 2009 will go into the draw to win one year's free membership (value \$88) and a copy of the 2008 ACORN Standards (value \$140)

Introduce a new PNAQ member NOW and WIN a free 2009 State Conference registration!!

Any existing member introducing a new PNAQ member who joins before 31 March 2009 will go into the draw to win a full conference registration for the 2009 State Conference **CSI: PNAQ**.

The membership form is available from the Website: **www.pnaq.net.au**
or request more by contacting PNAQ Inc direct

State Conference 2009 Update



Clinical Scene Investigation

CSI (Clinical Scene Investigation) is heading to SEQ for PNAQ 09. Perioperative Nurses participation is required! Watch this space for Dates & Location.

Horatio & Gil
(Vicki & Anne Maree)

2008 - 2009 Management & Committee Support Roles

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Treasurer:

Joy Jensen (W) 07 3883 7836

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Change of Personal Details

If your contact details change, please forward your new details by fax, post or email.

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