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MELISSA KOVAC, MA, MLIS, AHIP

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Purpose/G Goal

To provide the learner with knowledge of AORN's guidelines related to the National Guideline Clearinghouse, the role of medical librarians in developing AORN guidelines, and articles cited in AORN guidelines.

Objectives

1. Discuss practices that could jeopardize safety in the perioperative area.
2. Discuss common areas of concern that relate to perioperative best practices.
3. Describe the implementation of evidence-based practice in relation to perioperative nursing care.

Accreditation

AORN is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

Approvals

This program meets criteria for CNOR and CRNFA recertification, as well as other CE requirements.

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Conflict-of-Interest Disclosures

Melissa Kovac, MA, MLIS, Academy of Health Information Professionals (AHIP), has no declared affiliation that could be perceived as posing a potential conflict of interest in the publication of this article.

The behavioral objectives for this program were created by Helen Starbuck Pashley, MA, BSN, CNOR, clinical editor, with consultation from Susan Bakewell, MS, RN-BC, director, Perioperative Education. Ms Starbuck Pashley and Ms Bakewell have no declared affiliations that could be perceived as posing potential conflicts of interest in the publication of this article.

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THIS MONTH

AORN guidelines in the National Guideline Clearinghouse

Key words: *National Guideline Clearinghouse, AORN guidelines.*

Role of medical librarians in developing AORN guidelines

Key words: *medical librarians, systematic reviews, Institute of Medicine, National Guideline Clearinghouse.*

Articles cited in AORN guidelines

Key words: *AORN guidelines, National Library of Medicine, PubMed, interlibrary loan.*

AORN guidelines in the National Guideline Clearinghouse

QUESTION:

I know that some of AORN's guidelines are included in the National Guideline Clearinghouse, but I'm not sure why. What is the National Guideline Clearinghouse, and why is it significant that AORN's guidelines are included in it?

ANSWER:

Guidelines must be evidence based to be considered sound and contribute meaningfully to the safety of patients and health care personnel.¹ Although the AORN guidelines have always been evidence based, before 2012, AORN developed

its guidelines without a defined focus on systematically reviewing and rating the evidence. In 2010, AORN convened a task force to evaluate existing methods of rating the strength of evidence and to determine whether to use an established method or one developed by AORN to assess evidence for inclusion in AORN guidelines. The task force published its findings in 2011,² and AORN began publishing evidence-rated guidelines the following year.¹

This new evidence-rating methodology gave AORN the opportunity to submit its guidelines to the National Guideline Clearinghouse (NGC), an initiative of the Agency for

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