

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Sharon Hollett RN, BN, CPN(C), ORNAC President, works as a staff nurse in the operating room at the Saint John Regional Hospital in New Brunswick. Sharon specializes in cardiac, plastics, and orthopedic surgery. She is a Past-President of NBORN and served as the New Brunswick Board Director on the ORNAC board for three years. Sharon has also held the positions of Secretary and President-Elect for ORNAC.

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How do you define a perioperative nurse? ORNAC's current by-laws offer a definition in Section 1, 1.01(f). It reads as follows:

"Canadian Perioperative Registered Nurse" means a registered nurse licensed to practice within a Canadian province or territory, whose field of practice is focused on the perioperative continuum of care providing safe and effective care/service to the surgical patient/client and their family. In addition, perioperative nursing practice focuses on but is not limited to education, leadership, research and advanced perioperative nursing practice in the settings of hospital operating rooms, ambulatory care settings/facilities, out-patient clinics, private/non-hospital surgical suites and physician offices, and educational institutions."¹

These by-laws went into effect on June 12, 2013, and have served ORNAC well over the past number of years. This summer the governance team of the ORNAC Board was remarkably busy reviewing our by-laws. An updated version of the by-laws is necessary to continue to support ORNAC's infrastructure which, in turn, supports our members. In essence, ORNAC remains viable and committed to

representing Canadian Perioperative Nurses in a professional manner.

Part of this update will be a review of the definition of a perioperative nurse. So I would like to ask you, the members, how do you define your practice?

- Perhaps you are currently employed in the traditional hospital focused concept of perioperative nursing practice? Pulling case carts and turning over rooms; scrubbing and circulating for acutely ill patients who need life-saving surgery.
- Perhaps you work in the field of nursing research and are contributing to ongoing analysis in perioperative nursing and standards of care?
- Perhaps you are employed in an educational institution that focuses on teaching perioperative nursing skills to students?
- Perhaps you work at an ambulatory care centre that features a day model of care for patients? Your clients come for a variety of small procedures under local anesthetic, you patch them up and send them out.
- Perhaps you are employed in private practice and physician office settings

working one on one with the physician and patient?

We believe it is time to have another look at this definition of perioperative nursing. But first we would like to hear from you.

I encourage each of you as an ORNAC member to have your say in this new definition. **We ask members to communicate via their Provincial Board of Directors representative as they are your liaison to the ORNAC Board.** Their contact information can be found on page 4 of this journal and on the ORNAC website at www.ORNAC.ca.

Let us know what you want to see in the new meaning of perioperative nurse as it will be defined for our future! Reach out now and share your thoughts.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hollett". The signature is fluid and cursive.

References:

1. Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. ORNAC General Operating By-law No 1 (2013). [Cited June 21, 2021.] Available from <https://www.ornac.ca/en/about-us/our-bylaws> 🍀