

PNEC PERSPECTIVE

PLANNING FOR CHANGE

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Change is difficult. This is the reality whether it is a change in the route to work due to a road closure or a change in employment. Change is, inevitably, a meaningful part of life and cannot, and should not, be avoided. While change is unpredictable and can make some uncomfortable, it also creates opportunity and excitement.

Perioperative nurses are familiar with change. Change is, in fact, one area that makes perioperative nurses shine. Each patient brings unpredictability to even the most routine case. The work day can change without warning. It is in this

experts in the provision of safe patient care and having the experts at the helm is what allows for good decisions that lead to positive patient outcomes. Patients depend on it. This type of change is often what attracts, and retains, the nursing workforce in the operating rooms.

Although many nurses plan the entire work day, ensuring each case has the correct supplies and instruments for the patients entrusting us with their care, the priority “A” case that comes through the doors, from the emergency department, cannot be

travelling on for years. Not every perioperative nurse will understand the reason for every change and may be more focused on the changes that affect him or her -- but in the end we hope all perioperative nurses will be able to see that the care path of perioperative nursing in Canada needs to change for the betterment of the entire group. Our provinces, and their provincial perioperative nursing membership, will shift their thinking, their stride, and their collective direction to ensure that change is supporting our perioperative family to the best outcome. The nurses will rally

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environment of change and unpredictability where perioperative nurses thrive and excel. With each day the routine once again becomes unknown. Any laparoscopic procedure can suddenly become an open laparotomy, forcing a shift in thinking, a change in stride, and a focus in a new direction to ensure that change is supporting the patient to the best outcome. Perioperative nurses quickly rally the resources required, perform a surgical count, shut down minimally invasive surgical equipment, and carry on with nursing documentation. Sometimes the change is ongoing throughout a surgical procedure and the challenge is to stay one step ahead of the unknown and be prepared for whatever may come. Perioperative nurses are the

avoided or planned for. The comfortable, well planned, and predictable path that was being travelled will suddenly change. Sometimes patients do not understand the implications and these changes are perceived a lack of focus on their care but perioperative nurses know the need to change one patient’s care path was made for the betterment of the entire group of patients.

As ORNAC continues its strategic planning and restructuring process, perioperative nurses will experience change. With this change comes unpredictability. Not every step will be comfortable nor will every step be on the previous, predictable path that perioperative nursing has been

the resources required and continue to thrive while change is ongoing. We will do this because our health care world is changing on an ongoing basis, and we are trying to keep one step ahead of the unknown to be prepared for whatever comes our way. Having the experts available to share knowledge and provide information will be a requirement and these experts will assist in leading perioperative nursing into a sustainable future within Canada. Perioperative nurses are familiar with change, and we shine every day in a changing environment. As a result of this latest change we will continue to shine for years to come. Operating rooms depend on it. Perioperative nurses depend on it. Patients depend on it. 🌱