

# IT'S THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST INFECTION. IRONICALLY, IT'S ALSO THE SOURCE.

## ChloroPrep® Patient Preoperative Skin Preparation

It's the patient's own skin. During a procedure, blood and serum diminish the antimicrobial effect of traditional paint and scrub. This can lead to a surgical site infection. That's why there's ChloroPrep®.

**Help stop infection before you start surgery with ChloroPrep®.**

- **SUPERIOR** to traditional iodophors in reducing skin microorganisms that cause infection
- **PROVEN** in 36 published studies as best practice for helping reduce the risk of infection
- **INNOVATIVE** applicators provide a gentle friction scrub and promote a "hands-off" prep



**ChloroPrep®**  
Patient Preoperative Skin Preparation  
2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate (CHG)  
& 70% Isopropyl Alcohol (IPA)  
www.chloroprep.com

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For further information, please contact your Surgical Specialist at 905.417.6874.

## President's Message

*We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.*

Aristotle

As the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI) representative for ORNAC, one of the 77 voting member organizations of CPSI, I have had the privilege of attending the Halifax series – the Canadian Healthcare Safety Symposia – beginning with the first invitational board meeting in 2005 and including the recent October 2009 series in Montreal. I am reminded, with the presentations at each symposium, of the significance of communication, collaboration, trust, and respect. All are important components that are necessary for a surgical team to function as a cohesive unit.

Health care organizations, both large and small, can be described as complex adaptive systems where the high levels of uncertainty experienced in daily work, by health care professionals, impact the quality and safety of care that patients receive. Wrong-site surgery still occurs, despite the fact that it has been the focus of a great deal of international attention. High profile adverse events receive widespread publicity and result in extensive efforts to prevent their recurrence. Less dramatic errors are, however, more common – patients develop wound infections when antibiotics are not administered or thrombo-embolic complications occur when prophylaxis is omitted. We need to learn the lessons from all adverse events, and embrace techniques and technologies developed in other industries, in order to minimize the impact of human error.

The airline industry is an example of a profession with a well developed safety culture – and this culture puts emphasis on the importance of safety checklists. The World Health Organization's (WHO) *Safe Surgery Saves Lives* initiative, including the use of a Surgical Safety Checklist, began in September 2006 and, to date, has seen more than 300 national and international medical organizations and societies working together to reduce avoidable deaths and complications in surgical care. The Canadian Patient Safety

Institute (CPSI) has recently sponsored the work necessary to adapt the Checklist, along with other tools and resources from the initiative, for the Canadian context. ORNAC is one of several key stakeholders working to take this initiative forward and welcomes the opportunity to advocate a culture of safety that includes the entire surgical team. For more details on this most important initiative, please refer to the briefing paper from CPSI: "Safe Surgery Saves Lives" at [www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca](http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca).



On [www.ORNAC.ca](http://www.ORNAC.ca) you will find an appeal from Dr. Atul Gawande to the nursing community on behalf of the WHO *Safe Surgery Saves Lives* campaign. The appeal invites ORNAC members to advocate for safety in surgery and to join thousands of perioperative nurses world-wide by introducing a checklist in to your hospital. I encourage, and even challenge, you to introduce and implement a Surgical Safety Checklist for every patient with every surgical procedure. I believe that a surgical safety checklist has the potential to be the greatest catalyst for enhanced communication and collaboration between perioperative nurses and our physician colleagues – a key factor in the foundation of successful teams and the essence of a safety culture.

Best wishes for a healthy and safe holiday season,

*Bonnie W. McLeod*

Bonnie W. McLeod, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C), is Clinical Nurse Educator - Perioperative, Fraser Health Authority, Ridge Meadows Hospital site, the ORNAC representative on the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, and the past Chair of the ORNAC Standards committee.