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President's Message

We have two ongoing choices in life – to move or to stand still. If we always choose to stand still we will cease to grow and to develop. It is important to keep moving in order to keep up with the ever-changing demands of our day-to-day lives. ORNAC is doing just that – and things are moving very quickly these days! The growth of our website (www.ORNAC.ca), ongoing development of this journal, and the promotion and use of our standards mean that ORNAC is raising the profile of perioperative nursing locally, provincially, and nationally.

ORNAC is now a voting member of the Canadian Patient Safety Institute (CPSI). CPSI has a national mandate to build and advance a safer health system for all Canadians. The institute provides leadership on patient safety issues and helps to create a culture that is open to disclosure and is committed to any changes that will improve care.

One of the ways the CPSI will achieve its goals is through encouraging the use of a quality improvement tool (Root Cause Analysis Framework) to help determine the factors that contributed to a sentinel event (or a close call). It is important that we all learn from each other, through the evaluation of both positive and adverse events, so that we can work towards safer and better care for our patients.

A recent event in Pennsylvania, USA, tells the story of the use of the impact of colour-coded wristbands for patient identification. The trouble was that different colours meant different things at different hospitals. At one hospital the yellow band signified a “DNR” order. At another, yellow marked an arm that should not be used for blood work. With nurses working at both facilities and you have the makings of a potential disaster. In this particular case, the system only resulted in a close call. The reporting of this incident prompted the state patient safety authority to issue some advisory information on the use of colour-coded wristbands. Through the reporting of this incident everyone learned a better way to achieve the goal of patient safety. To learn more about reporting incidents, and patient safety, visit www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca.

Closer to home, ORNAC is working hard to improve the day-to-day experiences of

perioperative nurses. *Canadian Operating Room Nursing Journal* is one of the best ways to learn about what is going on! Those of you who have been receiving this journal will note that the look and content of our journal has improved steadily over the past couple of years and we aim to continue to do so.



You may be aware that the ORNAC member subscription rate for the Journal has remained the same for many years. As the Journal continues to grow so do the production and distribution costs. In November 2005 the ORNAC board voted to subsidize the 2006 member subscriptions in order to delay the need to pass on cost increases to our members. We hope the Journal is a valued part of your membership benefits.

As we head toward spring we prepare for a new season of learning and professional development. Canadian OR Leaders (CORL) is hosting a two-day Leadership conference in Toronto on May 8th and 9th. Learn more about this and other conferences at www.ORNAC.ca. Many provinces will host conferences in the near future – make an effort to attend yours!

As always, if you have concerns or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at president@ornac.ca. I always have time to listen! 🍁

McKay

Marcy McKay, RN CPN(C), is President of the Operating Room Nurses Association of Canada. She is a staff nurse at Victoria, General Hospital, Victoria BC, and is currently the webmaster for www.ornac.ca.

Marcy McKay, infirmière autorisée, CPN(C), est la présidente de l'Association des infirmières et infirmiers de salle d'opération du Canada. Elle est infirmière de soins généraux au Victoria General Hospital, Victoria, C.-B., et est actuellement webmestre du site www.ornac.ca.