

Spotlight on Practice

Erin Robertson

Did you know...

As a perioperative nurse it is important to have a professional practice model that supports, strengthens, and guides our practice.

The 17th edition (2025) of the *ORNAC Guidelines for Perioperative Practice in Canada* introduced a new model for Canadian perioperative nursing practice. Aligning with and supporting ORNAC's mission, vision and values, the *Model for Canadian Perioperative Nursing Practice* (©ORNAC, 2025) is a visual representation of the perioperative nurse's contribution to the delivery of high-quality patient care and a framework that defines and guides perioperative nursing practice and supports professional development.

The concepts in the model were derived from the *Perceived Perioperative Competency Scale-Revised* (PPCS-R; Gillespie, 2012). The PPCS-R was developed to address gaps in the literature for perioperative practice competency. The scale is being used internationally and is scientifically developed and psychometrically validated for assessing perioperative nurses' competency.

The perioperative nurse, with their nursing foundational knowledge, begins to develop and refine their competencies related to their practice environment and patient population. The competencies include the following:

- leadership (including accountability and responsibility);
- communication (including nontechnical skills, empathy and psychological safety);
- knowledge (including research);
- skills (including proficiency);
- continuous professional development (including education); and
- collaboration.

The perioperative environment is dynamic in nature, where there is always a risk of complications and adverse events. The six competencies recognize the technical and nontechnical skills necessary for perioperative nurses to embody, to support safe practice and a safe perioperative environment for our surgical patients and colleagues.

These competencies have been used to build the foundational framework of ORNAC's Perioperative Nurse, Perioperative Nurse Manager, and Perioperative Nurse Educator core competencies. Knowing and understanding these competencies can support personal professional development, workforce and human resource planning, and the delivery of quality patient care.

Author Note

Erin Robertson, RN, BScN, MN, CPN(C) is the Coordinator/Lead for the 2027 18th edition of the ORNAC Guidelines. Erin has been a member of the Guidelines Committee since 2013 and is a passionate advocate of perioperative practices which support a safe perioperative environment for patients and all the members of the healthcare team.

Reference

Gillespie, B. M., Polit, D. F., Hamlin, L., & Chaboyer, W. (2012). *Perceived Perioperative Competence Scale—Revised* (PPCS-R) [Database record]. APA PsycTests. <https://doi.org/10.1037/t25567-000>



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