

# Risk Managers in the OR

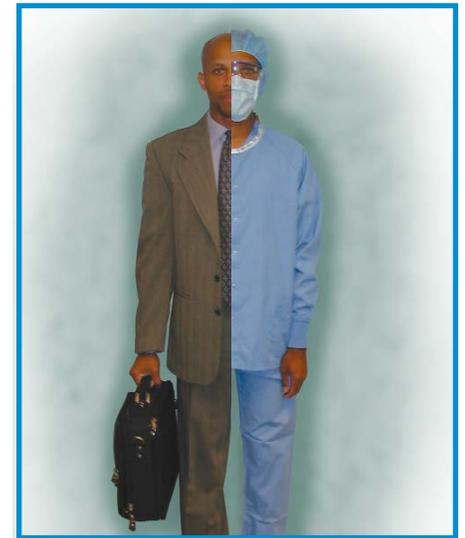
The Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) is partnering with the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) to bring risk managers into hospital and ambulatory surgery center operating rooms. Perioperative nurses across the nation will be inviting their risk managers to put on scrubs and spend some time in the OR. The purpose of this program is to help risk managers experience the operating room environment first-hand and learn more about risks and risk-reduction strategies for patients and healthcare workers. Through this program, risk managers will see what is happening on the front lines of care.

## A Safer Environment for All

Providing safe care for patients undergoing surgery and other invasive procedures requires a committed team of healthcare professionals. Perioperative nurses are central to the success of the team, but quality perioperative care also extends beyond the OR. The risk manager is a key member of that extended team. Through the collaboration, risk managers and perioperative nurses can form a relationship to reduce risk in the perioperative setting.

AORN and the American Society for Healthcare Risk Management (ASHRM) share a commitment to patient safety. While the perioperative nurse has a primary focus on the individual patient, the risk manager concentrates on managing and preventing risk within the entire organization. The risk manager is one of the perioperative nurse's key resources. The inherent complexity of surgery requires a strong partnership among health care providers throughout the organization to promote optimum communication and safe patient care delivery systems. Spending a day in the OR with a perioperative nurse can help develop strong working relationships. This partnership will create a safer environment for all.

- The goal of *Risk Managers in the OR* is to enhance mutual understanding among health care providers in an effort to improve collaboration for patient and workplace safety.
- The purpose of the risk manager's visit is to gain a broader understanding of the perioperative environment.
- Areas of interest for the risk manager include:
  - Traffic control
  - Aseptic technique
  - Patient safety concerns in the operating room
  - Healthcare worker safety concerns
  - Patients' rights



AORN Perioperative Nurse Week  
November 14 - 20, 2004

AORN is promoting *Risk Managers in the OR* during Perioperative Nurse Week, November 14-20, 2004. Each year AORN honors perioperative nurses with activities and resources designed to raise public awareness and recognize the important role perioperative nurses play in improving patient safety. This year, nurses across the nation will be inviting risk managers into the OR. The theme of this year's Perioperative Nurse week is "Touching Lives—Making a Difference."

## ABOUT AORN

AORN is the professional organization of perioperative registered nurses whose mission is to promote quality patient care by providing its members with education, standards, services, and representation. AORN is composed of approximately 40,000 perioperative registered nurses in the United States and abroad who manage, teach, and practice perioperative nursing; who are enrolled in nursing education; and who are engaged in perioperative research.

**AORN Mission Statement:** AORN supports registered nurses in achieving optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures.

