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AORN revises Position Statement on the Role of the Health Care Industry Rep in the Perioperative Setting

Denver, Colo., June 11, 2014 – The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses ([AORN](#)) has revised its Position Statement on the Role of the Health Care Industry Representative in the Perioperative Setting. The revision consolidates a position statement and guidance statement developed in 2006 and clarifies the roles of the perioperative nurse, perioperative administrator and the health care industry representative.

It affirms that AORN believes that perioperative registered nurses (RNs), perioperative administrators, and health care industry representatives are all accountable to advocate for patient safety; workplace safety; and the patient’s right to information, privacy, and confidentiality when a health care industry representative is present during an operative or invasive procedure.

“All of us in the OR recognize both the value and the risk of having an industry rep in the OR during surgeries,” said [AORN’s Executive Director/CEO Linda Groah](#), MSN RN CNOR NEA-BC FAAN. “This position statement will help facilities and surgical team members create policies and procedures that assure a safe environment and the best possible outcome for the patient.”

Role of the Perioperative Nurse

The perioperative RN is accountable for the patient’s nursing care during the operative or invasive procedures. Core nursing activities (eg, assessment, diagnosis, outcome identification, planning, evaluation) as indicated by licensure, may not be performed by anyone who is not a nurse employed by the health care organization.

Role of the Perioperative Administrator

The perioperative administrator is accountable for ensuring that a structured process exists to provide education on procedures, techniques, technology, and equipment to health care professionals practicing

within operative or invasive procedure settings. Perioperative administrators also are accountable for implementing policies and procedures to ensure that every patient is informed about the presence of a health care industry representative in the operating or invasive procedure room and that the patient gives written informed consent according to local, state, and federal regulations. Administrators should collaborate with the organization's risk manager or legal counsel to develop policies and procedures that are specific to the health care industry representative's role in the operating or invasive procedure room; advocate for patient safety and workplace safety; and ensure compliance with the applicable local, state, and federal laws.

Role of the Health Care Industry Representative

AORN believes that by virtue of their education, knowledge, and expertise, health care industry representatives have a valid, but restricted, role in the operative or invasive procedure setting. Health care industry representatives hold a variety of positions (eg, clinical consultants, sales representatives, technicians, repair/maintenance personnel) in their own organizations. When permitted access to the operating or invasive procedure room, a representative is accountable to advocate for patient safety, workplace safety, and patient privacy.

The specific measures recommended by AORN for each of these roles can be found [online](#).

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About AORN

AORN is a non-profit membership association based in Denver, Colorado that represents the interests of more than 160,000 perioperative nurses by providing nursing education, standards, and clinical practice resources—including the peer-reviewed, monthly publication AORN Journal—to enable optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN's 45,000 registered nurse members manage, teach, and practice perioperative nursing, are enrolled in nursing education, or are engaged in perioperative research..