STANDARDS OF PERIOPERATIVE NURSING

Introduction

AORN is dedicated to enhancing the professionalism of perioperative registered nurses (RNs), promoting standards of perioperative nursing practice to better serve the needs of society, and providing a forum for interaction and exchange of ideas related to perioperative health care. Standards are authoritative statements that describe the responsibilities for which RNs are accountable and that reflect the values and priorities of the profession. The history of the Standards of Perioperative Nursing is detailed in Exhibit A.

As recipients of care, patients are entitled to privacy, confidentiality, personal dignity, and quality health services. The delivery of patient-focused care is guided by ethical, legal, and moral principles. These inherent principles serve as a foundation for perioperative nursing practice and are paramount in achieving optimal patient outcomes.

The standards of perioperative nursing focus on the process of providing nursing care and performing professional role activities. These standards apply to all nurses in the perioperative setting and were developed by AORN using the American Nurses Association’s (ANA) scope and standards of practice for nursing and nursing administration as the foundation.

It is the perioperative RN’s responsibility to meet these standards, assuming that adequate environmental working conditions and necessary resources are available to support and facilitate the nurse’s attainment of these standards. It is the responsibility of health care employers to provide an appropriate environment for nursing practice. It is important to recognize the link between working conditions and the nurse’s ability to deliver care.

Several related themes underlie the standards of perioperative nursing. Nursing care must be individualized to meet a patient’s unique needs and situation. This care should be provided in the context of disease or injury prevention, health promotion, health restoration, health maintenance, or palliative care. The cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of the patient always must be taken into account while providing nursing care.

The perioperative RN must respect the patient’s goals and preferences in developing and implementing a plan of care. One of nursing’s primary responsibilities is patient education; therefore, nurses should provide patients with appropriate information to make informed decisions regarding their care and treatment. It is recognized, however, that some state regulations or institutional policies or procedures may prohibit full disclosure of information to patients.

The perioperative RN’s partnership with the patient and other health care providers is recognized in the standards. It is assumed that the nurse will work with other health care providers in a coordinated manner throughout the process of caring for patients undergoing operative or other invasive procedures. The involvement of the patient and designated support person(s) is paramount. The appropriate degree of participation that is expected of the patient, designated support person(s), and other health care providers is determined by the clinical environment and the patient’s unique situation.

It is beyond the scope of documents such as these to account for all possible scenarios that the perioperative RN may encounter in practice. The nurse will need to exercise judgment based on education and experience to determine what is appropriate, pertinent, or realistic. Further direction also may be available from documents such as recommended practices, guidelines for care, agency standards, policies, procedures, protocols, and current research findings.

The standards of perioperative nursing provide a mechanism to delineate the responsibilities of RNs engaged in practice in the perioperative setting. These standards serve as the basis for quality monitoring and evaluation systems; databases; regulatory systems; the development and evaluation of nursing service delivery systems and organizational structures; certification activities; job descriptions and performance appraisals; agency policies, procedures, and protocols; and educational offerings. The standards of perioperative nursing are generic and apply to all RNs engaged in perioperative practice, regardless of clinical setting, practice setting, or educational preparation.

A. Perioperative Patient Focused Model

A.1. Conceptual Framework

The Perioperative Patient Focused Model (Figure 1) is the conceptual framework for perioperative nursing practice and the Perioperative Nursing Data Set (PNDS). At the core of the Model, the patient and his or her designated support person(s) provide the focus of perioperative nursing care. Concentric circles expand beyond the patient and designated support person(s) representing the perioperative nursing domains and elements. The Model illustrates the relationship between the patient, designated support person(s), and care provided by the perioperative RN.
A.2. Patient Centered
The patient is at the center of the Model, which clearly represents the true focus of perioperative patient care. Regardless of practice setting, geographic location, or nature of the patient population, there is nothing more important to the perioperative RN than the patient.

A.3. Four Domains
The Model is divided into four quadrants, three representing patient-centered domains:
- patient safety,
- patient physiologic responses to operative and other invasive procedures, and
- patient and designated support person(s) behavioral responses to operative and other invasive procedures.

The fourth quadrant represents the health system in which the perioperative care is delivered. The health system domain designates administrative concerns and structure elements essential to successful perioperative outcomes.

A.4. Outcome Focused
The Model focuses on patient outcomes. This is important, because nursing theories and models should embrace and represent all elements of the nursing process. AORN’s Model represents the outcomes focus of perioperative RNs by placing outcomes immediately adjacent to the patient care domains. Perioperative RNs have a unique knowledge base that supports high-quality patient outcomes. An individualized patient assessment guides the identification of nursing diagnoses and selection of nursing interventions for each patient.

B. Goal for Perioperative Nursing Practice
The goal of perioperative nursing practice is to assist patients and their designated support person(s) with achieving a level of wellness equal to or greater than that which they had before their operative or other invasive procedures.

C. Scope of Perioperative Nursing Practice

C.1. Definition of Perioperative RN
C.1.1. Perioperative RNs use the nursing process to develop individualized plans of care and to coordinate and deliver care to patients undergoing operative or other invasive procedures. Perioperative RNs identify patient needs, set goals with patients, and implement nursing interventions and activities to achieve optimal patient outcomes.

C.1.2. Perioperative RNs address the physiological, psychological, socio-cultural, and spiritual responses of patients.

C.1.3. Perioperative RNs use standards, knowledge, judgment, and skills based on scientific principles.

C.1.4. Perioperative RNs are ethical, responsible, and accountable for quality patient care.

C.1.5. Perioperative RNs use evidence as the foundation for practice.

C.1.6. Perioperative RNs assume responsibility for lifelong learning.

C.2. Definition of Perioperative Nursing Practice
C.2.1. Perioperative nursing practice is consistent with the ANA’s definition of nursing, which states,

Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations.4(6)

C.2.2. Perioperative nursing practice is based on holistic caring relationships that facilitate health and healing within the range of human experiences.

C.2.3. Perioperative nursing practice is enhanced by interdisciplinary collaboration and appropriate resource utilization.
C.2.4. Perioperative RNs use AORN guidelines as a foundation for practice and specialized educational preparation.

C.3. Span of Perioperative Nursing Practice

C.3.1. Perioperative RNs provide care across the surgical continuum, beginning when patients are first informed that they need an operative or invasive procedure and ending when they return to their usual roles and responsibilities.

C.3.2. Perioperative RNs focus on patients and their designated support person(s).

C.4. Settings of Perioperative Nursing Practice

Perioperative RNs provide care in a variety of clinical settings. These settings include traditional ORs, ambulatory surgery centers, physicians’ offices, cardiac catheterization suites, endoscopy suites, radiology departments, and all other areas where operative and other invasive procedures may be performed.

Perioperative RNs influence community, regulatory, and legislative activities through employment or voluntary participation at the local, state, national, or international level.

C.5. Role Functions

Perioperative RNs function in a variety of roles that are dynamic and continually evolving through increased education and experience to meet the changing needs of society. These may include, but are not limited to, staff RN, RN first assistant, advanced practice RN, manager, administrator, educator, informatics nurse specialist, and researcher.

Perioperative RNs act in the public interest when providing the unique service society has entrusted to them. Accountability is accomplished through self-regulation, professional regulation, and legal regulation. Perioperative RNs positively influence health care services and delivery by promoting a safe environment.

D. Standards of Perioperative Nursing

D.1. Standard 1: Assessment

The perioperative RN collects patient health data that are relevant to the operative or invasive procedure.

Measurement

D.1.1. Perioperative RN:
D.1.1.1. Determines data collection priorities based on the patient’s condition or needs, and the relationship to the proposed intervention.
D.1.1.2. Collects pertinent data using systematic, comprehensive, and evidence-based techniques.
D.1.1.3. Conducts a systematic and ongoing process for data collection.
D.1.1.4. Involves the patient, designated support person(s), and health care providers in the data-collection process.
D.1.1.5. Reviews the results of diagnostic studies relevant to the patient’s current status and planned operative or invasive procedure.
D.1.1.6. Documents relevant data in a retrievable format.

Additional measurement

D.1.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.1.2.1. Uses advanced assessment techniques, independently or collaboratively, to gather appropriate data pertinent to patients and populations.
D.1.2.2. Recognizes complex physiologic responses.
D.1.2.3. Initiates diagnostic studies relevant to the patient’s current status and planned operative or invasive procedure.
D.1.2.4. Interprets results of diagnostic studies relevant to the patient’s current status and planned operative or invasive procedure.
D.1.2.5. Synthesizes assessment data to identify trends and improve perioperative outcomes.
D.1.2.6. Assigns American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) physical status classification.

D.2. Standard 2: Diagnosis

The perioperative RN analyzes the assessment data to determine nursing diagnoses.

Measurement

D.2.1. Perioperative RN:
D.2.1.1. Identifies nursing diagnoses that are consistent with the assessment data.
D.2.1.2. Sets priorities using nursing diagnoses based on assessment data.
D.2.1.3. Validates nursing diagnoses with the patient, designated support person(s), and health care providers when possible.
D.2.1.4. Documents nursing diagnoses using standardized nursing language in a retrievable format.

Additional measurement

D.2.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.2.2.1. Synthesizes assessment data using advanced knowledge and clinical judgment to formulate differential diagnoses for risk reduction and clinical problems.
D.2.2.2. Sets priorities using differential diagnoses.
D.3. **Standard 3: Outcome Identification**
The perioperative RN identifies expected outcomes that are unique to the patient.

**Measurement**

**D.3.1. Perioperative RN:**
- **D.3.1.1.** Uses ethical principles to determine expected outcomes that are mutually formulated with the patient, designated support person(s), and health care providers when appropriate.
- **D.3.1.2.** Develops culturally and age-appropriate expected outcomes based on the patient’s present and potential physical capabilities and behavioral patterns.
- **D.3.1.3.** Defines expected outcomes that are attainable with considerations to the human and material resources available to the patient.
- **D.3.1.4.** Identifies measurable criteria to determine outcome attainment.
- **D.3.1.5.** Sets priorities including a time estimate for attaining expected outcomes.
- **D.3.1.6.** Modifies expected outcomes based on patient status.
- **D.3.1.7.** Communicates expected and attained outcomes to health care providers to provide direction for continuity of care.
- **D.3.1.8.** Documents outcomes in a retrievable format.

**Additional measurement**

**D.3.2. Advanced practice RN:**
- **D.3.2.1.** Develops peer education that emphasizes identification and use of culturally appropriate patient outcome measures.
- **D.3.2.2.** Acts as a resource to determine an outcome-driven plan for individual patients and patient populations.
- **D.3.2.3.** Synthesizes evidence to determine optimal outcomes for individual patients and patient populations.

D.4. **Standard 4: Planning**
The perioperative RN develops an individualized plan of care to attain expected outcomes.

**Measurement**

**D.4.1. Perioperative RN:**
- **D.4.1.1.** Uses nursing diagnoses to identify nursing interventions.
- **D.4.1.2.** Uses current trends and scientific evidence in the planning process.
- **D.4.1.3.** Designs a plan of care that includes strategies for health promotion and restoration.

**D.4.2. Advanced practice RN:**
- **D.4.2.1.** Synthesizes research findings and applies expert clinical knowledge to expand the plan of care for individuals and patient populations.
- **D.4.2.2.** Develops priorities for care reflecting the signs, symptoms, and behavioral responses within the realm of care for the advanced practice nurse.

D.5. **Standard 5: Implementation**
The perioperative RN implements the identified plan of care.

**Measurement**

**D.5.1. Perioperative RN:**
- **D.5.1.1.** Determines that the nursing interventions are consistent with the plan of care.
- **D.5.1.2.** Verifies that nursing interventions reflect the rights and desires of the patient and designated support person(s).
- **D.5.1.3.** Implements nursing interventions safely and efficiently.
- **D.5.1.4.** Implements the ongoing plan of care in collaboration with the patient, designated support person(s), and health care providers based on the patient’s responses.
- **D.5.1.5.** Anticipates and responds to situational changes.
- **D.5.1.6.** Modifies the plan of care based on the patient’s responses.
- **D.5.1.7.** Incorporates new knowledge and strategies to initiate change in nursing care practices if desired outcomes are not achieved.
- **D.5.1.8.** Documents interventions using standardized language in a retrievable format to promote continuity of care.
Additional measurement

D.5.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.5.2.1. Integrates advanced knowledge and skills to implement the plan of care.
D.5.2.2. Performs ongoing physical examinations, selecting, ordering, and interpreting diagnostic tests.
D.5.2.3. Provides advanced interpretation of conditions and gives rationale for the procedure.
D.5.2.4. Performs interventions that apply advanced nursing therapies and include medication management and clinical procedures.

D.5.a. Standard 5a: Coordination of Care
The perioperative RN coordinates patient care continually throughout the patient’s perioperative experience.

Measurement

D.5.a.1. Perioperative RN:
D.5.a.1.1. Delegates tasks and functions according to applicable laws, regulations, and standards, taking into consideration the competency of the assignee.
D.5.a.1.2. Assists the patient and designated support person(s) with identifying alternative options for care.

Additional measurement

D.5.a.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.5.a.2.1. Uses advanced knowledge to initiate new treatments or change existing treatment based on changing trends or scientific evidence.
D.5.a.2.2. Makes referrals to other health care professionals and community agencies.
D.5.a.2.3. Initiates interdisciplinary team meetings or other communication to improve the health of individual patients and patient populations.

D.5.b. Standard 5b: Health Teaching—Health Promotion
The perioperative RN promotes holistic wellness and a safe environment.

Measurement

D.5.b.1. Perioperative RN:
D.5.b.1.1. Teaches modifications for activities of daily living.
D.5.b.1.2. Provides information to patients to reduce high-risk behaviors.
D.5.b.1.3. Advocates for healthy lifestyle choices.
D.5.b.1.4. Uses teaching strategies that are appropriate to the situation and the patient’s developmental level, cognitive ability, learning needs, readiness, language preference, culture, and beliefs.
D.5.b.1.5. Alters teaching strategies based on feedback.
D.5.b.1.6. Reports information to the appropriate source regarding local, state, and national health issues that affect safety according to policy, guidelines, or regulations.

Additional measurement

D.5.b.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.5.b.2.1. Uses advanced theoretical knowledge to organize and deliver educational programs for patients, designated support person(s), health care professionals, and the community.
D.5.b.2.2. Initiates referrals promoting health or risk reduction.
D.5.b.2.3. Analyzes and disseminates information regarding local, state, and national health issues that affect safety.

D.5.c. Standard 5c: Consultation
The perioperative RN seeks specialized dialogue appropriate to the patient.

Measurement

D.5.c.1. Perioperative RN:
D.5.c.1.1. Facilitates communication between health care professionals to enhance patient outcomes.

Additional measurement

D.5.c.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.5.c.2.1. Provides independent consultation services based on expertise using advanced knowledge within the scope of practice.
D.5.c.2.2. Collaborates and coordinates with medical, nursing, and other disciplines to plan and implement monitoring of physiologic responses for individuals or patient populations.
D.5.c.2.3. Consults with the appropriate health care providers to determine a need for new treatments or a change in existing treatments.
D.5.d.  Standard 5d: Prescriptive Authority
The advanced practice RN prescribes medications, treatments, and therapies in compliance with state and federal laws and regulations.

Measurement
D.5.d.1.  Prescriptive authority does not apply to the perioperative RN.

Additional measurement
D.5.d.2.  Advanced practice RN:
D.5.d.2.1.  Uses prescriptive authority within the scope of practice.
D.5.d.2.2.  Uses scientific evidence to order, prescribe, or initiate diagnostic, therapeutic, or pharmacologic interventions based on patient status.
D.5.d.2.3.  Monitors the patient for therapeutic and potential adverse effects in response to diagnostic or pharmacologic interventions.
D.5.d.2.4.  Modifies diagnostic, therapeutic, or pharmacologic interventions based on the patient's status and responses.
D.5.d.2.5.  Educates patients and designated support person(s) about intended and potential adverse effects of proposed prescribed therapies.
D.5.d.2.6.  Informs patients and designated support person(s) about potential costs, alternative treatment options, and procedures as appropriate.

The perioperative RN evaluates the patient's progress toward attaining outcomes.

Measurement Criteria
D.6.1.  Perioperative RN:
D.6.1.1.  Conducts a systematic and ongoing evaluation measuring the effectiveness of the interventions in relation to achieving identified outcomes.
D.6.1.2.  Monitors the patient's progress toward achieving outcomes in the time frame identified in the plan.
D.6.1.3.  Documents the patient's progress toward achieving outcomes accurately and consistently using standardized language in a retrievable format.
D.6.1.4.  Revises diagnoses, outcomes, and the plan of care, based on ongoing assessment and evaluation.
D.6.1.5.  Documents revisions in diagnoses, outcomes, and the plan of care using standardized language in a retrievable format.

D.6.2.  Advanced practice RN:
D.6.2.1.  Evaluates responses to interventions systematically and revises differential diagnoses as needed in relation to the patient's progress toward attaining outcomes.
D.6.2.2.  Uses advanced knowledge of learning and change theories, human behavior, stress and coping mechanisms, crisis management, growth, and development to evaluate patient responses to care.
D.6.2.3.  Modifies the patient's plan of care, recommending additional diagnostic testing and treatments if necessary to attain outcomes.
D.6.2.4.  Synthesizes knowledge of diagnostic tests, therapeutic regimens, and the patient's responses as they relate to progress toward attaining expected outcomes.
D.6.2.5.  Uses advanced knowledge to synthesize evaluation data that have a potential effect on current and future health care practices for individual patients and patient populations.

Standards of Perioperative Professional Practice

D.7.  Standard 7: Quality of Practice
The perioperative RN systematically evaluates the quality and appropriateness of nursing practice.

Measurement
D.7.1.  Perioperative RN:
D.7.1.1.  Demonstrates the quality of perioperative nursing care by documenting use of the nursing process using standardized language in a retrievable format.
D.7.1.2.  Participates in ongoing quality improvement activities as appropriate to the individual's position, education, and practice environment. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the following:
• Identifying aspects of the perioperative nursing practice that are important for quality monitoring.
• Assigning responsibility for quality monitoring and evaluation activities.
• Identifying dimensions of performance related to perioperative nursing practice.
• Developing quality indicators for each identified dimension of performance.
• Establishing benchmarks to evaluate the quality indicators.
• Collecting data related to the dimensions of performance and quality indicators.
• Evaluating perioperative nursing practice and care based on the cumulative data collected.
• Identifying strategies to improve perioperative nursing care or services based on quality indicators as necessary.
• Taking action to improve perioperative nursing care or services.
• Assessing the effectiveness of the action(s) taken.
• Communicating the data collected organization-wide to other agencies, regulatory bodies, or data repositories while maintaining confidentiality.

D.7.1.3. Initiates changes in perioperative nursing practice through knowledge gained and shared via the quality and performance improvement process.

D.7.1.4. Improves perioperative nursing practice, services, and care through the quality improvement process.

D.7.1.5. Monitors perioperative nursing practice and compares it to national guidelines, standards, or existing research.

D.7.1.6. Uses internal and external data to create innovative quality indicators.

Additional measurement

D.7.2. Advanced practice RN:

D.7.2.1. Applies advanced theoretical knowledge, research findings, and assessment data to design and implement ongoing quality monitoring activities to evaluate perioperative nursing practice.

D.7.2.2. Works with multidisciplinary groups to design or implement advanced practices and alternative solutions to patient care issues based on quality monitoring data.

D.7.2.3. Synthesizes data from clinical investigations and scientific research to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of perioperative patient care.

D.7.2.4. Publishes or presents results of quality monitoring and evaluation activities to influence and improve perioperative nursing practice.

D.7.2.5. Maintains certification in advanced nursing practice.

D.8. Standard 8: Education

The perioperative RN acquires and maintains specialized knowledge and skills in nursing practice.

Measurement

D.8.1. Perioperative RN:

D.8.1.1. Completes an individualized orientation based on identified learning needs.

D.8.1.2. Demonstrates skill proficiency relevant to perioperative nursing practice.

D.8.1.3. Seeks experiences to maintain skills and competency necessary to practice perioperative nursing.

D.8.1.4. Participates in ongoing educational activities relevant to professional issues and trends in perioperative nursing.

D.8.1.5. Maintains records and documents to support competence in perioperative nursing.

D.8.1.6. Strives to achieve certification in perioperative nursing.

Additional measurement

D.8.2. Advanced practice RN:

D.8.2.1. Incorporates current research, national guidelines, standards, and evidence-based practices to develop advanced clinical knowledge and augment performance in perioperative nursing.

D.8.2.2. Develops, coordinates, implements, and evaluates educational programs for individual patients, designated support person(s), patient populations, and local, regional, or state communities based on identified needs.

D.8.2.3. Maintains educational requirements necessary for advanced certification and licensure to practice.


The perioperative RN evaluates his or her practice in context with current professional practice standards, rules, and regulations.

Measurement

D.9.1. Perioperative RN:

D.9.1.1. Provides care consistent with the institution’s policies and procedures.

D.9.1.2. Practices nursing in accordance with the state board of nursing statutes, as well as the standards and guidelines of accrediting and regulatory bodies.

D.9.1.3. Maintains current knowledge of and adheres to ANA standards, practice guidelines, and position statements.
D.9.1.4. Maintains current knowledge of and adheres to AORN standards, recommended practices, guidelines, and position statements.

D.9.1.5. Maintains current knowledge of and adheres to standards, recommended practices, guidelines, and position statements from other nursing organizations as relevant to practice.

D.9.1.6. Participates in an ongoing evaluation process to ensure practice is current, legal, ethical, culturally competent, and age-appropriate.

D.9.1.7. Seeks evaluative input from peers, colleagues, patients, and patients’ designated support person(s) regarding nursing practice.

D.9.1.8. Participates in peer review to evaluate nursing practice of fellow RN colleagues.

D.9.1.9. Identifies goals and develops an action plan for professional development as part of an ongoing evaluation process.

D.9.1.10. Interprets and facilitates staff member and agency compliance with current local, state, and federal regulations and standards.

D.9.1.11. Participates in legislative and policy-making activities that influence health services and nursing practice.

D.9.1.12. Respects diversity in all interactions.

Additional measurement

D.9.2. Advanced practice RN:

D.9.2.1. Devises innovative, evidence-based evaluation strategies to ensure that care is being delivered in a legal, ethical, culturally competent and age-appropriate manner.

D.9.2.2. Applies advanced theoretical knowledge, research findings, and assessment data to design, implement, and evaluate perioperative nursing practice.

D.9.2.3. Works with multidisciplinary groups to design or implement advanced practices and alternative solutions to patient care issues based on quality monitoring data.

D.9.2.4. Synthesizes data from clinical investigations and scientific research to improve the safety, efficiency, and effectiveness of perioperative patient care.

D.9.2.5. Publishes or presents results of quality monitoring and evaluation activities to influence and improve perioperative nursing practice.

D.10. Standard 10: Collegiality

The perioperative RN interacts with and contributes to the professional growth of peers, colleagues, and others.

Measurement

D.10.1. Perioperative RN:

D.10.1.1. Shares knowledge and skills through a variety of methods including, but not limited to,

- providing inservice education, programs, seminars, and workshops;
- precepting;
- mentoring;
- role modeling;
- participating in peer evaluation;
- publishing; and
- participating in professional associations.

D.10.1.2. Contributes to a supportive and healthy work environment by using appropriate verbal and nonverbal communication techniques.

D.10.1.3. Builds trust by being approachable, honest, and accountable.

D.10.1.4. Acts as a role model for professional behavior.

D.10.1.5. Supports colleagues’ professional development.

D.10.1.6. Interacts with team members and others in a respectful and courteous manner.

D.10.1.7. Uses conflict resolution skills to manage difficult behavior, promote positive working relationships, and advocate for patient safety.

Additional measurement

D.10.2. Advanced practice RN:

D.10.2.1. Shares knowledge and skills as a role model and mentor.

D.10.2.2. Uses advanced knowledge to assist staff members with applying the nursing process to complex patient situations in the perioperative setting.

D.10.2.3. Develops evidence-based guidelines to influence policy, change practice, and support professional development of colleagues.

D.10.2.4. Acts as a preceptor for advanced practice nurses.

D.11. Standard 11: Collaboration

The perioperative RN collaborates with the patient and designated support person(s) when practicing professional nursing.

Measurement

D.11.1. Perioperative RN:

D.11.1.1. Communicates pertinent information relating to patient care to internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.
D.11.1.2. Demonstrates accountability and flexibility when interacting with others.
D.11.1.3. Includes the patient and designated support person(s) and health care team members, as appropriate, in decision making when providing perioperative nursing care.
D.11.1.4. Provides continuity of care when implementing referrals.
D.11.1.5. Supervises allied health care providers and support personnel with appropriate authority.
D.11.1.6. Delegates tasks and functions according to applicable law, regulation, and standards, taking into consideration the competency of the assignee.

Additional measurement

D.12. Advanced practice RN:
D.12.2.1. Participates with the interdiscipli
nary team to promote the use of nationally accepted clinical practice guidelines and standards in advanced nursing practice.
D.12.2.2. Serves as a resource for perioperative staff members, surgeons, ancillary departments, and community groups requiring advanced nursing expertise.
D.12.2.3. Fosters a collaborative environment and recognizes the value of each provider's contribution to comprehensive health care.
D.12.2.4. Acts in partnership with appropriate health care providers to initiate new treatments or change existing treatments to promote positive outcomes.

D.12. Standard 12: Ethics
The perioperative RN uses ethical principles to determine decisions and actions.

Measurement

D.12.1. Perioperative RN:
D.12.1.1. Practices nursing according to the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (Exhibit B).
D.12.1.3. Encourages patient self-advocacy.
D.12.1.4. Maintains patient confidentiality within legal and regulatory guidelines.
D.12.1.5. Delivers care in a nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory manner that is sensitive to cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity.
D.12.1.6. Delivers care in a way that preserves and protects patient autonomy, dignity, and human rights.
D.12.1.7. Upholds the professional and therapeutic boundaries of the nurse-patient relationship.

D.12.1.8. Formulates ethical decisions by using available resources.
D.12.1.9. Reports illegal, incompetent, or impaired practices.
D.12.1.10. Recognizes own physical and psychological limitations to provide safe, competent patient care.
D.12.1.11. Participates on ethics committees as appropriate.

Additional measurement

D.12.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.12.2.1. Develops treatment plans while instructing the patient and designated support person(s) about the risks, benefits, and possible outcomes of the plan.
D.12.2.2. Contributes to the development of consistent policies and services that are comparable in all settings and that are within the legal and ethical scope of advanced practice.
D.12.2.3. Provides independent or collaborative care that is nondiscriminatory and nonjudgmental regardless of the setting.
D.12.2.4. Initiates treatments in a nonjudgmental and nondiscriminatory manner that is sensitive to the patient's cultural, racial, socioeconomic, and ethnic diversity.
D.12.2.5. Considers ethical implications of scientific advances, cost, and clinical effectiveness, as well as patient and designated support person(s)' acceptance or satisfaction.

The perioperative RN incorporates research findings into practice.

Measurement

D.13.1. Perioperative RN:
D.13.1.1. Uses the best available research evidence to guide practice.
D.13.1.2. Initiates change using scientific evidence to develop policies and procedures or influence perioperative nursing practice.
D.13.1.3. Supports nursing practice changes based on research evidence.
D.13.1.4. Seeks new knowledge that is evidence-based through print, web-based, and other sources.
D.13.1.5. Participates in research activities by involvement in one or more of the following:
• identifying clinical problems pertinent to perioperative nursing practice;
• participating in data collection;
• reading, analyzing, critiquing, and interpreting research findings to determine applicability to practice;
• sharing research activities and findings with others;
• participating on a research committee;
• participating in a research study; or
• joining a journal club.

Additional measurement

D.13.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.13.2.1. Collects and aggregates data to analyze care decisions, patient responses, and health outcomes for potential research projects.
D.13.2.2. Synthesizes current and emerging research findings that contribute to positive patient outcomes and incorporates them into advanced practice decisions.
D.13.2.3. Performs a literature review and critically appraises findings to advocate for analysis or review of system-wide clinical practices.
D.13.2.4. Conducts research to contribute to nursing knowledge and evidence-based practice.
D.13.2.5. Disseminates research findings through writing, publishing, and presenting to influence general and advanced nursing practice.
D.13.2.6. Pursues funding for perioperative nursing research.

The perioperative RN considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, efficiency, and the environment, as well as the cost in planning, delivering, and evaluating patient care.

Measurement

D.14.1. Perioperative RN:
D.14.1.1. Assigns tasks or delegates care based on knowledge and skills of perioperative team members to meet the needs of the patient and keep him or her free from harm.
D.14.1.2. Assists the patient and designated support person(s) with identifying human and material resources that are available to address perioperative patient needs.
D.14.1.3. Advocates for technical advances in clinical care to increase efficiency or improve outcomes.
D.14.1.4. Promotes the use of electronic information systems to provide perioperative patient care efficiently and safely.
D.14.1.5. Advocates for reusing, recycling, and renewing supplies whenever appropriate in the perioperative setting.
D.14.1.6. Conserves supplies to minimize waste and decrease costs without compromising safety or negatively affecting outcomes.

D.14.2. Advanced practice RN:
D.14.2.1. Uses advanced knowledge to provide consultation services to the organization to achieve high-quality, cost-effective outcomes for populations of patients across settings.
D.14.2.2. Promotes system-wide communication to reduce costs by avoiding unnecessary duplication of diagnostic tests.
D.14.2.3. Collects and evaluates data regarding the effectiveness of care, cost-benefit relationship of the care being provided, and patient satisfaction.
D.14.2.4. Maintains knowledge of the organization’s methods of financing the delivery of care.
D.14.2.5. Implements a cost-benefit evaluation of new technology and participates in product review committees.
D.14.2.6. Considers health care access, fiscal responsibility, efficacy, and quality when providing advanced nursing care.

D.15. Standard 15: Leadership
The perioperative RN provides leadership in the profession and professional practice setting.

Measurement

D.15.1. Perioperative RN:
D.15.1.1. Supervises peers, colleagues, allied health personnel, and support staff members as assigned and appropriate.
D.15.1.2. Delegates tasks and responsibilities according to law, regulation, and accrediting agency standards.
D.15.1.3. Holds self and team members accountable to the patient, the organization, and other internal and external stakeholders.
D.15.1.4. Creates and maintains a healthy work environment.
D.15.1.5. Embraces lifelong learning for self and others.
D.15.1.6. Advocates for a culture of safety for patients and staff members in the workplace.
D.15.1.7. Actively has input into organizational operations. Activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
• influencing policy-making to improve patient care;
• advocating for issues that affect perioperative care;
• participating in quality improvement activities;
• participating on committees;
• being a role model when new policies, procedures, or processes are implemented;
• supporting change while considering short- and long-term organizational goals;
• operationalizing the mission, vision, and values of the organization; and
• encouraging peers and colleagues to be active.

D.15.1.8. Participates in ongoing quality improvement workplace activities as appropriate to the individual’s position, education, and practice environment.

D.15.1.9. Enhances perioperative nursing through involvement with professional organizations. Activities include, but are not limited to, the following:
• taking an active role in the association;
• encouraging peers and colleagues to be active;
• sharing information received through associations with team members; and
• presenting pertinent information to individuals and groups of lay and professional audiences.

D.15.1.10. Participates in legislative and policy-making activities that influence perioperative care.

Additional measurement

D.15.2. Advanced practice RN:

D.15.2.1. Uses advanced knowledge to act at the organizational level and beyond to promote change by identifying and influencing variables affecting health care practices and outcomes.

D.15.2.2. Promotes interdisciplinary cooperation and collaboration to implement outcome-based patient care programs to meet the needs of individual patients, designated support person(s), or patient populations or local, regional, or state communities.

D.15.2.3. Uses advanced team building, negotiation, and conflict resolution skills to promote teamwork to build partnerships within and across health care systems.

D.15.2.4. Initiates legislative and policy-making activities that influence perioperative care.

D.15.2.5. Collaborates to prevent and reduce the incidence of surgical site infections, health care-associated infections, and other adverse events related to surgical patients.

D.15.2.6. Facilitates staff member access to and compliance with current local, state, and federal regulations; professional standards; and accreditation guidelines.

D.15.2.7. Advances the profession through writing, publishing, and presenting pertinent information to individuals and groups of lay and professional audiences.

E. Standards of Perioperative Administrative Practice

E.1. Standard 1: Assessment

The perioperative RN administrator collects comprehensive data necessary to support perioperative and organizational services.

Measurement

E.1.1. Uses evidence-based processes to collect pertinent data in a systematic and ongoing manner to support perioperative services.

E.1.2. Sets priorities for data collection activities based on the needs of the department, the organization, and perioperative patients.

E.1.3. Involves internal and external stakeholders, as appropriate, in systematic data collection.

E.1.4. Develops mechanisms to resolve missing or insufficient data, information, and knowledge resources.

E.1.5. Develops, maintains, and evaluates retrievable data management systems to support perioperative services.

E.2. Standard 2: Identifies Issues or Trends

The perioperative RN administrator analyzes data to develop ideas and support decisions relevant to the delivery of perioperative nursing care.

Measurement

E.2.1. Synthesizes available data to identify issues, patterns, trends, and variances involving perioperative nursing services.

E.2.2. Collaborates with internal and external stakeholders when analyzing data as appropriate.

E.2.3. Validates the issues and trends with internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.

E.2.4. Reports issues or trends to internal and external stakeholders as appropriate.

E.2.5. Documents issues and trends in a retrievable format to facilitate outcome identification and planning.

E.3. Standard 3: Outcomes Identification

The perioperative RN administrator identifies expected outcomes for perioperative services.

Measurement

E.3.1. Develops outcomes for perioperative nursing service using assessment findings and analysis.

E.3.2. Develops and maintains policies and procedures that support the outcomes.

E.3.3. Identifies evidenced-based outcomes using standardized perioperative nursing language.

E.3.4. Supports perioperative RNs and other health care personnel to achieve quality patient care outcomes.
E.3.5. Promotes acquisition of appropriate technologies to provide patient and worker safety.
E.3.6. Identifies a physically, emotionally, and psychologically safe work environment as a priority.
E.3.7. Identifies a time frame in which to achieve the outcomes.

The perioperative RN administrator develops the process and strategic plan to attain expected outcomes for perioperative services.

Measurement
E.4.1. Considers organizational and departmental structure, as well as lines of authority, when planning to meet the outcomes.
E.4.2. Develops a strategic plan that is consistent with the mission, vision, and values of the organization.
E.4.3. Establishes a timeline for processes and strategies to carry out the plan.
E.4.4. Uses current laws, regulations, and standards to guide the planning process.
E.4.5. Bases the plan on current research and other evidence.
E.4.6. Assigns duties and responsibilities to carry out the plan with job descriptions, scope of practice, and regulatory and accrediting agencies.
E.4.7. Considers the physical, psychosocial, and economic effect of the plan.
E.4.8. Modifies the strategic plan based on issues and trends in the department.
E.4.9. Documents the strategic plan in a retrievable format.

E.5. Standard 5: Implementation
The perioperative RN administrator implements a strategic plan within the organizational and departmental structure.

Measurement
E.5.1. Implements the strategic plan by following the defined timeline with special consideration to the perioperative patient and workplace safety.
E.5.2. Provides those implementing the plan with sufficient time and material, as well as intellectual, human, and financial resources.
E.5.3. Uses health care organization and community resources to support implementation.
E.5.4. Coordinates and documents implementation of the plan, including modifications.
E.5.5. Communicates with internal and external stakeholders regarding implementation and modifications.
E.5.6. Encourages the development of organizational systems and processes that support implementation.

E.5.a. Standard 5a: Coordination
The perioperative RN administrator coordinates implementation of the plan, using appropriate human and capital resources.

Measurement
E.5.a.1. Organizes implementation with consideration for budgetary, health care organization, and community resources.
E.5.a.2. Promotes efficient integration of services to implement the plan.
E.5.a.3. Leads the coordination of efforts related to perioperative care and associated services when implementing the plan.

E.5.b. Standard 5b: Health Teaching and Health Promotion
The perioperative RN administrator employs strategies to promote workplace safety and health.

Measurement
E.5.b.1. Uses regulatory and evidence-based professional guidelines to implement workplace safety practices.
E.5.b.2. Promotes workplace safety by applying wellness techniques.
E.5.b.3. Commits to practicing self-care and promoting wellness with others.

E.5.c. Standard 5c: Consultation
The perioperative RN administrator provides consultation to communicate the identified plan.

Measurement
E.5.c.1. Acts as a resource to internal and external stakeholders regarding perioperative nursing care, perioperative patient outcomes, and perioperative services.
E.5.c.2. Uses assessment data, theoretical frameworks, current research, and evidence related to perioperative nursing care when providing consultation.
E.5.c.3. Provides consultation based on experience and knowledge of perioperative standards of care, recommended practices, laws, and regulations.

The perioperative RN administrator evaluates the effectiveness of the plan toward achieving desired outcomes.

Measurement
E.6.1. Measures progress toward strategic planning goals at regular intervals to determine their validity.
E.6.2. Reviews the plan for compliance with legal, regulatory, and credentialing requirements and guidelines.
E.6.3. Includes internal and external stakeholders when evaluating progress toward or achievement of outcomes.
E.6.4. Takes action based on the results of the evaluation to modify processes or structures.
E.6.5. Reports evaluation results to internal and external stakeholders.
E.6.6. Documents results of progress toward attaining outcomes.

E.7. Standard 7: Quality of Practice
The perioperative RN administrator guides improvement of care delivery using key indicators.

Measurement
E.7.1. Coordinates efforts and assigns personnel to systematically collect and record data in a retrievable format related to quality indicators.
E.7.2. Tracks data to develop performance improvement initiatives that support the delivery of high-quality patient care.
E.7.3. Develops written plans to monitor organizational or departmental outcomes at regular intervals.
E.7.4. Uses data to initiate organizational or departmental changes to provide high-quality patient care.
E.7.5. Identifies pertinent evidence to establish appropriate benchmarks.
E.7.6. Compares benchmark data to challenge current practice and organizational or departmental outcomes.
E.7.7. Incorporates research and current evidence to enhance quality and improve delivery of care.
E.7.8. Analyzes data to identify trends, variances, and patterns that affect perioperative nursing services.
E.7.9. Uses analysis to develop and enact new policies and procedures to improve perioperative nursing services.
E.7.10. Validates privileges, credentials, or certifications to schedule procedures appropriately.
E.7.11. Reports quality outcomes to internal and external stakeholders in compliance with state and federal requirements.

E.8. Standard 8: Education
The perioperative RN administrator has advanced educational preparation and management experience to direct perioperative services.

Measurement
E.8.1. Achieves advanced education in nursing or a related field.
E.8.2. Demonstrates management and leadership skills.
E.8.3. Validates experience in perioperative nursing.
E.8.4. Participates in ongoing educational activities related to leadership, management, and perioperative nursing.

E.8.5. Upholds local, state, federal, legislative, and regulatory activities affecting perioperative nursing services.
E.8.6. Recognizes professional standards, recommended practices, and guidelines pertinent to perioperative nursing services.
E.8.7. Maintains professional records to document ongoing competence.

The perioperative RN administrator follows regulatory, accrediting, and professional guidelines and regulations to evaluate professional practice of self and members of the department.

Measurement
E.9.1. Engages in self-evaluation of perioperative practice on a regular basis, identifying areas of strength as well as opportunities for professional development.
E.9.2. Validates competency of self and others at regular intervals.
E.9.3. Participates in a systematic peer review of self and others.
E.9.4. Provides a rationale for practice beliefs, decisions, and actions as part of the informal and formal evaluation processes.
E.9.5. Respects diversity in all interactions.
E.9.6. Ensures ongoing departmental compliance with local, state, national, and professional legislative and regulations.
E.9.7. Conducts formal performance reviews at regular intervals based on patient and departmental outcomes.
E.9.8. Solicits informal and formal feedback regarding departmental performance from appropriate internal and external stakeholders.

E.10. Standard 10: Collegiality
The perioperative RN administrator promotes the professional development of others.

Measurement
E.10.1. Serves as a professional role model and mentor to motivate, develop, recruit, and retain perioperative RNs and colleagues.
E.10.2. Establishes a learning environment that is open and respectful to others.
E.10.3. Shares expertise to advance the mission, vision, and values of the organization and promote positive perioperative outcomes.
E.10.4. Provides opportunities and support for continuing education, professional development, and formal education.
E.10.5. Promotes specialty certification.
E.10.6. Promotes active membership and participation in professional organizations.
E.10.7. Encourages staff member participation on multidisciplinary teams that improve perioperative nursing practice.
E.10.8. Enhances own professional perioperative nursing practice and role performance through interactions with peers and colleagues.

E.11. Standard 11: Collaboration
The perioperative RN administrator collaborates with internal and external stakeholders to improve perioperative services.

Measurement
E.11.1. Participates on system-wide committees as a perioperative resource to influence organizational decisions, policies, and procedures.
E.11.2. Oversees departmental activities, providing expert input regarding perioperative and organizational interests.
E.11.3. Interacts with health care providers to promote positive perioperative outcomes.
E.11.4. Partners with internal and external stakeholders to influence health care policy decisions affecting perioperative services and outcomes.
E.11.5. Documents collaborative efforts toward improving perioperative services, including planning, implementation, and effectiveness.

E.12. Standard 12: Ethics
The perioperative RN administrator ensures that ethical processes are used to deliver perioperative services.

Measurement
E.12.1. Establishes an environment where perioperative team members engage in competent, ethical, and legal practices.
E.12.2. Ensures the protection of human rights for all individuals in the perioperative setting.
E.12.3. Maintains privacy and confidentiality of individuals and health information within the perioperative setting.
E.12.4. Fosters a nondiscriminatory climate within the perioperative setting.
E.12.5. Maintains sensitivity to diversity within the perioperative setting.
E.12.6. Uses resources within the organization to address ethical issues.

The perioperative RN administrator supports and integrates current research and other available evidence into perioperative services.

Measurement
E.13.1. Evaluates and updates practice decisions based on available evidence and current research findings.
E.13.2. Creates a supportive environment with sufficient resources for nurses to investigate research findings and initiate evidence-based best practices.
E.13.3. Promotes dissemination of knowledge gained from evidence-based activities via presentations, publications, and consultation.
E.13.4. Ensures that departmental research priorities align with the mission, vision, values, and strategic plan of the organization.
E.13.5. Aligns departmental research priorities with those set by professional nursing organizations, regulatory agencies, and accrediting bodies.
E.13.7. Incorporates evidence-based practice to improve and support a positive work environment.
E.13.8. Supports research activities that contribute to perioperative nursing knowledge.

The perioperative RN administrator uses human and material resources to deliver safe, high-quality, and cost-effective perioperative services.

Measurement
E.14.1. Considers safety and effectiveness when analyzing the cost-benefit ratios that affect perioperative services.
E.14.2. Allocates resources to promote quality patient outcomes.
E.14.3. Allocates fiscal resources to support the perioperative services strategic plan.
E.14.4. Advocates for human and material resources by using patient acuity and nursing workload guidelines to deliver safe patient care.
E.14.5. Advocates for human and material resources to support a safe work environment.
E.14.6. Identifies strategies for cost-effective and efficient practices without compromising perioperative patient safety or outcomes.
E.14.7. Promotes creative thinking among staff members, peers, and colleagues to develop new and innovative devices, practices, and strategies to advance and improve perioperative nursing services.
E.14.8. Advocates for environmental consciousness when using and managing resources in the perioperative setting.
E.14.9. Provides documentation for internal and external stakeholders to demonstrate costs, risks, and benefits that support decisions for perioperative practices.

E.15. Standard 15: Leadership
The perioperative RN administrator provides leadership within the organization and the profession.

Measurement
E.15.1. Maintains membership in relevant professional organizations related to leadership and perioperative nursing.
E.15.2. Strives to achieve relevant professional specialty certification(s).
E.15.3. Acts as a leader on administrative teams participating in decision making that affects perioperative services.
E.15.4. Participates in activities to influence legislative or regulatory decisions that affect perioperative services and perioperative nursing practice.
E.15.5. Leads committees, task forces, councils, and teams to make decisions that positively influence perioperative services, perioperative nursing practice, or perioperative patient outcomes.
E.15.6. Supervises perioperative personnel and supports their roles in promoting positive patient outcomes.
E.15.7. Promotes lifelong learning among personnel involved with perioperative services.
E.15.8. Inspires loyalty, teamwork, respect, and professionalism among personnel involved with perioperative services.
E.15.9. Promotes an environment that fosters independent and creative critical thinking.
E.15.10. Acts as a leader and change agent, supporting evidence-based practices in the perioperative setting.
E.15.11. Advances knowledge of perioperative services and perioperative nursing by communicating pertinent information through publishing and presenting for professional and lay audiences.

The perioperative RN administrator advocates for individuals and groups related to perioperative health and safety.

Measurement
E.16.1. Advocates for one perioperative RN circulator per patient in the intraoperative phase of care.
E.16.2. Supports perioperative patients’ health care rights by involving individuals in their own care.

E.16.3. Endorses regulatory measures that provide for safe patient care and workplace safety.
E.16.4. Incorporates safe perioperative care into the design, implementation, and evaluation of policies, programs, services, and systems.
E.16.5. Allocates resources to support advocacy activities related to perioperative services and the nursing profession.
E.16.6. Supports the perioperative patient’s right to access personal health data and information related to privacy, security, and confidentiality.
E.16.7. Promotes a philosophy of advocacy in the perioperative environment.

References

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