

****

**MEDIA ALERT**

Media Contacts: **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Elizabeth Eaken Zhani

Media Relations Manager

The Joint Commission

630.792.5914

ezhani@jointcommission.org

Gayle Davis

Director, Corporate Communications, PR & Media Relations

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN)

303-755-6304 Ext. 225

gdavis@aorn.org

**National Time Out Day to be Recognized by The Joint Commission and AORN**

**WHAT:** In a letter sent to thousands of perioperative nurses across the country, The Joint Commission and AORN urge health care practitioners and organizations to recognize National Time Out Day to help draw attention to the time out as a tool for the prevention of wrong-site, wrong-side, wrong-procedure or wrong-person surgery. In honor of National Time Out Day, AORN and The Joint Commission ask all key people in the operating room and the organizations where they work to committo conducting a safe, effective time out for every patient, for every surgical procedure.

**WHY:** A wrong-site surgery should never happen and when it does it can be devastating for the patient, the surgical team and the health care organization. National Time Out Day, an annual event is meant to heighten awareness of the importance of the time out, the process a surgical team uses before the start of a surgical procedure to prevent a wrong-site, wrong-side, wrong-procedure or wrong-person surgery.

**WHEN:** National Time Out Day will be celebrated in hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers June 12, 2013.

**HOW:** Resources for celebrating National Time Out day are available on the AORN web site at [www.aorn.org](http://www.aorn.org).

**ATTACHED:** Time Out letter from Mark R. Chassin, M.D., F.A.C.P., M.P.P., M.P.H., president, The Joint Commission and Linda K. Groah, RN, MSN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FAAN, executive director/CEO, AORN

###

Founded in 1951, The Joint Commission seeks to continuously improve health care for the public, in collaboration with other stakeholders, by evaluating health care organizations and inspiring them to excel in providing safe and effective care of the highest quality and value. The Joint Commission evaluates and accredits more than 20,000 health care organizations and programs in the United States, including more than 10,300 hospitals and home care organizations, and more than 6,500 other health care organizations that provide nursing and rehabilitation center care, behavioral health care, laboratory and ambulatory care services. The Joint Commission currently certifies more than 2,000 disease-specific care programs, focused on the care of patients with chronic illnesses such as stroke, joint replacement, stroke rehabilitation, heart failure and many others. The Joint Commission also provides health care staffing services certification for more than 750 staffing offices. An independent, not-for-profit organization, The Joint Commission is the nation's oldest and largest standards-setting and accrediting body in health care. Learn more about The Joint Commission at [www.jointcommission.org](http://www.jointcommission.org).

AORN represents the interests of more than 160,000 perioperative nurses by providing nursing education, standards, and practice resources—including the peer-reviewed, monthly publication *AORN Journal*—to enable optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures. AORN’s 42,000 registered nurse members manage, teach, and practice perioperative nursing, are enrolled in nursing education or are engaged in perioperative research. www.aorn.org