

The importance of constant scientific updating in perioperative nursing for the quality and safety of care: the role of specialist associations and societies

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Scientific updating in perioperative nursing, combined with confirmation of the specialty, greatly increases patient safety in their health care, by ensuring that the practice is consistent with current standards of excellence.

When talking about the role of associations and societies as a source of leadership in favor of the quality and safety of care, it is necessary to explain the meaning of associativism. It can be understood as the “association of groups to achieve a common interest”¹. Therefore, it is an important sociological concept, at the core of which are the characteristics of associative entities: being constituted to promote some common interest to all members, having voluntary participation and independent existence from official organizations².

Thus, associativism brings nurses closer toward a common project that includes nursing at the center of the health scenario², as is the case with the need for scientific updating in perioperative nursing.

The role of specialist societies and associations in this context is of utmost importance³. In them, nurses identify with other associates and find a favorable environment to discuss problems and challenges, clarify doubts and exchange professional experiences^{2,3}.

It is up to the associative entities to guide professionals on the professional exercise, especially about the importance of constant scientific updating, to implement a perioperative nursing clinical practice based on the best available scientific evidence, ensuring patient safety and excellence of the assistance provided.

Another role of associations and societies of specialists is to title professionals and promote the dissemination of knowledge, either through appropriate and updated guidelines, prepared by a consensus of experts, or by promoting discussions with experts and/or courses and training.

The guidelines are fundamental as they establish minimum standards to qualify the service of a care model that meets the needs of the population and standardize the perioperative nursing terminology, aiming at implementing cross-cultural care, especially when considering a country as diverse as Brazil.

Discussions with experts can be held in Specialty Committees, which are important spaces to foster the discussion of good practices related to perioperative nursing, ensuring a connection with the challenges found in health institutions. The objective of these working groups is to rely on the experience of professionals in the sector to contribute to the best care and management practices, favoring patient safety during care and sustainable management for hospital leaders, based on protocols and efficient assistance methods.

The completion of courses and training aims to train professionals and clinical leaders to perform their highly specific work in a safe and integrated manner along with the inter-professional team, developing skills capable of overcoming ethical issues and offering qualified care to the population.

In addition to the scientific functions of associative entities, the importance of raising awareness and social oversight is also highlighted, ensuring that professional practice is exercised ethically.

Finally, the continuous advancement of nursing in terms of the knowledge of these surgical nurses, who participate in lifelong learning and continuous development, reflecting on the population’s quality of life, since safe care greatly contributes for an excellent service to surgical patients during their health recovery, reducing the risk of injuries and adverse events.

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