



SNIPS AND SNAPS NEWSLETTER

WINTER 2023

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Successful ORNAA Annual General Meeting

ORNAA held our 2023 Annual General Meeting on October 18 via a Hybrid Event held in-person at the Robbins Learning Pavilion at the Royal Alexandra Hospital in Edmonton and online via ZOOM. Thanks go out to Dr. Aubrey Uretsky for sharing his presentation *Fibroid Treatment – Oh How Things are Changing*.

Then the ORNAA executives shared updates, including:

- Jill Clark – President Report and CORNA District Update
- Melissa Ronan – Treasurer Report and SCORNA District Update
- Randi Galenzoski – Webmaster Report and SORNA District Update
- Helen Mackay – Education Director Report, Promising Star Award and Educational Bursaries
- Heather Lanouette – NCORNA District Update

Thank you to all those who attended.

Upcoming Education Session

NCORNA will be hosting their first education session on Zoom on January 8, 2024 at 7PM. Dr. Tara Klassen will give a presentation titled *Revolutionizing Management of Open Abdomens: AHS Trial of AbClo a Non-Invasive Closure Device*.

Please RSVP to Lindsay Giese for the Zoom Link at lindsay.giese2@ahs.ca or your NCORNA hospital representative (if applicable). Non-ORNAC members are welcome but must e-transfer \$10 to NCORNAtreasurer@gmail.com (password: operatingroom).



Sound The HORN!

I am so excited to write about a new and exciting group that NCORNA is supporting.



This group, HORN, Helping Operating Room Nurses, was created to support Operating Room RNs and LPNs, members and non-members, across Alberta in their roles. The purpose of this group is to provide a safe space for new perioperative nursing staff to gather and discuss their successes and challenges in the perioperative setting.

The facilitators for the group are Helen Mackay, Heather Lanouette, Lindsay Giese, Cathleen Clarke, and Randy Galenzoski. You create a screen name in the discord platform to participate in the on-line discussions and post questions. The virtual meetings are slated for every 6-8 weeks. The discord platform is monitored by the facilitators, so that if members have questions or ideas for discussion, they may post them at any time.

Our first on-line meeting was held November 1, 2023, during which we discussed the format of the discord channel.

The channels created for discussion on the HORN page are the following:

- General
- Need Help Today
- Social Memes
- Education Opportunities
- Sterile Technique
- New Procedures
- Outside the OR
- Tips and Tricks
- Best Practice

Check out the postings by getting access to the site. Contact Lindsay Giese at lindsay.giese2@ahs.ca to get the link. From there, click on the link and create a profile. Read and agree to the code of conduct, then you are in.

The next meeting is scheduled for January 17, 2024, at 7 PM. We encourage you to post topics for discussion. This forum is to be directed by the participants. Don't be afraid to ask any sort of question, if it is something that is causing you anxiety and stress at work! If you are a new Canadian, ask away about cultural and linguistic differences, as there is so much more to do than just "show up" to work.

- Cathleen Clarke BSN, RN, CPN(C)



From Study to Standard: The Impact of a Change in Practice

By Andrea Becking

When I first started in the OR over 10 years ago, one of the neurosurgeons at Foothills Medical Centre had just begun a new study. Officially it was known as the Calgary Adult Shunt Infection Prevention Protocol (CASIPP), but colloquially it was known as the VP shunt protocol. Ventricular-Peritoneal shunt infections at FMC at that time had an infection rate of about 5.8%. This may not sound that high, but that meant 1 out of every 20 shunt patients would acquire an infection, need to have their shunt removed, and then have the infection cleared before ultimately having a new shunt put in. Medically and financially, this has major impacts for patients, their families, and the health care system. Thus, on July 1 2013, the VP shunt protocol entered the OR to try and change all that.

For the perioperative nursing staff, our responsibilities for the study were relatively simple: follow the protocol, record any deviations of the protocol on a study sheet and the perioperative record, and place the completed study sheet in an envelope to be picked up by a member of the research team. Over time, as the nursing staff became more familiar with the protocol, it became second nature to implement it any time we were working in a shunt room. The nursing staff became the enforcers of the protocol, reminding the doctors to double glove, insisting the residents to wait prior to draping, and keeping the doors taped shut to prevent any intruders. As the years went on, improvements were made to the protocol, which the nursing staff applied wholeheartedly. The study sheets disappeared, but the VP shunt protocol remained the standard of practice in all shunt rooms. The neurosurgeon responsible for the study kept reassuring us it was making a difference in patient outcomes, but as a perioperative nurse you don't see that. You see the way your practice has changed to follow the protocol. You see the patient for the ninety minutes that they are in your care. But once they leave the theatre, their outcome is a complete mystery to you.

The years fly by to August 2022, and an email arrived in my inbox from the neurosurgeon. Attached was a freshly published article in the Journal of Neurosurgery summarizing the impact of the shunt protocol on patient infection rates. Since 2015, the rate of shunt infections has been reduced to 0%. 379 consecutive operations were performed with no infections. Although it was not a nursing-led study or a nursing-designed protocol, reading the article made me proud of the work my nursing colleagues and I accomplished to achieve those results. There it was in black and white, evidence that our change in practice was changing patients' lives.

Andrea Becking is the Nurse Clinician for Neurosurgery at Foothills Medical Centre. In her spare time, she enjoys knitting, rock climbing, and going on walking adventures with my husband and two children.



Reference:

Muram S, Isaacs AM, Sader N, et al. A standardized infection prevention bundle for reduction of CSF shunt infections in adult ventriculoperitoneal shunt surgery performed without antibiotic-impregnated catheters. *J Neurosurg.* 2022;138(2):494-502.

Submitting to Snips and Snaps

Please consider contributing to the upcoming newsletter. Each scholarly paper or special interest piece submitted to Snips & Snaps, (apart from conference or workshop summaries required for funding), will be reviewed by the awards committee prior to the AGM for the writing awards. The Deadline for submissions are Feb 15, May 15 and November 15. Please email articles to education@ornaa.org.

District Education Funding Eligibility

The 2025 ORNAC National Conference is being held in Calgary. Members who are considering applying for funding to attend the ORNAC conference, another conference, workshop, or are seeking to obtain/renew their CNA certification must do the following to be eligible:

- Must have been a member in the previous fiscal year (January to December)
- Must be a current member in the year they are applying for funding.
- Must have attended at least 2 education sessions in the previous fiscal year while they were a member.
 - o These 2 sessions could be for their own district or another ORNAA district.
 - o ORNAC webinars count with proof of attendance for 1 education session.
- Members use the “Conference/Workshop/Seminar/Non-Credit Course Application Form” which is found on the ornaa.org website under district funding.
- Funding application needs to be submitted prior to the District Executive Meeting that falls prior to the conference/webinar/seminar or CPN(C) exam.

Operating Nurses Association of Alberta

www.ornaa.org