

EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

# Opportunities from the Center for Perioperative Education

## PERIOPERATIVE NURSING COURSE 101

**A**ORN's Perioperative Nursing Course 101 is a comprehensive program for educating new perioperative nurses. The curriculum covers 27 crucial topics in a scripted lecture format with PowerPoint presentations and is designed to be integrated with your facility's specific policies and procedures.

Perioperative Nursing Course 101 will help you develop confident, better-educated, safety-conscious employees. The course includes overviews, reading assignments, glossaries, bibliographies, posttests, preceptor guidelines, handouts, slide presentations, a critical skills assessment checklist, a "Preparing the Preceptor" module with free contact hours, and more. For a free information packet, contact Laurie Clark at (800) 755-2676 x 258 or x 280, or visit AORN Online at <http://www.aorn.org/education/periop101.htm>.

## AORN CONFERENCES

### Financial Skills for Perioperative Managers

March 18, 2006

The Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC

This one-day seminar is conveniently offered the day before AORN's 53rd Congress begins. Both new and experienced perioperative managers will benefit from the valuable information presented about financial terminology, capital and operational budgets, budget preparation, full-time equivalent calculations, variance control, and monthly financial reports. Teaching methods will include lectures, interactive sessions, and case studies. For more information or to register, visit

[http://www.aorn.org/managers/events/dc\\_seminar](http://www.aorn.org/managers/events/dc_seminar), or call AORN customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1.

## DISTANCE LEARNING

Visit <http://www.aorn.org/education> for the latest continuing education opportunities. AORN Journal Home Studies published since March 2003 are available online at <http://www.aorn.org/journal/homestudy/default.htm>. Home Studies are available in portable document format (PDF) to print and complete. Use these programs to earn contact hours and stay abreast of the latest nursing information.

**Online courses.** The following online courses may be taken by themselves or used with AORN's Perioperative Management Resources seminars and manuals for more in-depth understanding. In Budgeting, you will learn

- basic cost accounting,
- essential steps in the budgeting process,
- components of capital and operating budgets, and
- steps to improve budget performance while providing safe patient care.

After completing Understanding and Interpreting Financial Statements, you will be able to

- describe the key components of a financial statement,
- identify ways to use statistical data to improve day-to-day operational efficiency,
- describe the types of statistical data used to support budget development,
- discuss two types of statistical reports that nurse managers can use to evaluate purchasing decisions,
- demonstrate the proper use of various statistical techniques,
- define the importance of personnel

*AORN is the premier provider of perioperative continuing education. To ensure that you are registering for an AORN event, look for the AORN name and logo. If you are not sure whether an event is sponsored by AORN, call AORN customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1.*

## AORN CONFERENCES

**Financial Skills for Perioperative Managers**

March 18, 2006

The Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC<http://www.aorn.org/managers/events/dcseminar>**53rd AORN Pre-Congress**

March 18, 2006

The Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC<http://www.aorn.org/congress/2006/attendees>**53rd AORN Congress**

March 19-23, 2006

The Washington Convention Center  
Washington, DC<http://www.aorn.org/congress/2006/attendees>

budgeting, and

- use statistical data to support program development or maintenance.

The Meeting Management course will provide you with practical guidelines for planning and conducting effective and productive meetings. After completing the course, you will be able to

- state two vital purposes for meetings,
- identify rationales for choosing a particular meeting type,
- demonstrate how a meeting agenda outlines the purpose or direction of a meeting,
- identify several types of meeting processes,
- identify ways to facilitate positive group interaction,
- identify logical components of a meeting, and
- identify tools to evaluate a meeting's effectiveness.

The Performance Improvement (PI) course provides a basic knowledge of PI activities that will allow you to meet regulatory requirements by analyzing performance gaps, planning and develop-

ing interventions for PIs, and evaluating the results of these improvements. After completing the course, you will be able to

- list the objectives of a PI program,
- discuss different plans that can be used, and
- develop a PI plan to address a specific need.

The completed Budgeting, Understanding and Interpreting Financial Statements, and Performance Improvement courses each are worth four contact hours. The completed Meeting Management course is worth two contact hours. To register, visit <http://www.aorn.org/managers/online.asp>. For more information, call customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1, or visit <http://www.aorn.org/managers>.

**Preparing for the CNOR Examination—online version.**

This program will alleviate participants' fears of taking the CNOR examination by walking them through the examination's format. Subjects are related to clinical situations with which perioperative nurses are familiar.

The program also provides effective test-taking strategies. Participants have six months from the time of registration to complete the self-paced, online program. Visit AORN Online at <http://www.aorn.org/events/cnoronline/default.asp> for information.

**Online master of science (MS) degree programs.**

AORN and the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center (UCHSC) School of Nursing are offering preferred tuition rates for MS in health care leadership and MS in health care informatics courses. Course work is available entirely via the Internet.

The MS in health care leadership consists of 37 credit hours. This course work prepares nurses for roles in nursing management and leadership in hospitals, ambulatory surgery centers, clinics, health departments, and private health-related businesses, as well as the public policy arena and other decision-making roles in health care. The courses taken in the Perioperative Management Certificate program offered in collaboration with UCHSC are required courses for this MS program.

The MS in health care informatics course consists of 34 credit hours. The courses taken in the Nursing Informatics Certificate program offered in collaboration with UCHSC are required, and up to 12 credit hours from these courses can be applied to this MS program.

Participants must meet

admission and course requirements to be accepted into the School of Nursing. Participants must be AORN members to receive the preferred rate for the health care leadership program. For more information, visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/culeadership.asp> and <http://www.aorn.org/education/cuinformatics.asp>.

**Perioperative Management Certificate program.** This certificate program is offered in collaboration with the UCHSC School of Nursing. It is ideal for any perioperative professional with a bachelor's degree in nursing who wants to improve his or her skills in management and leadership with a goal of successfully managing single or multiple perioperative nursing departments. For more information, visit AORN Online at <http://www.aorn.org/education/management.htm>, or contact Holly Heston at (800) 755-2676 x 318 or [hheston@aorn.org](mailto:hheston@aorn.org).

**Nursing Informatics Certificate program.** AORN and the UCHSC School of Nursing are offering preferred tuition rates for an online nursing informatics certificate program. Health care informatics is an interdisciplinary field that draws on knowledge from computer information and health sciences. This program uses informatics as a broad framework with a specific focus on nursing.

The course work in the certificate program is developed using the American Nurses Association's definition of

nursing informatics. The certificate program courses focus on the core content for nursing informatics and provide a total of 16 graduate level, academic credits. For more information, contact Holly Heston at (800) 755-2676 x 318 or [hheston@aorn.org](mailto:hheston@aorn.org), or visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/informatics.htm>.

**Clinical Educator Certificate program.** This convenient, comprehensive, distance-learning program gives nurse educators information on developing successful education programs for nurses in their facilities. The program is offered by AORN in collaboration with the UCHSC School of Nursing. Three courses, which provide a total of seven academic credits, can be taken at the undergraduate level or at the graduate level by nurses with a bachelor's degree. Graduate level courses require more course work. For more information, visit AORN Online at <http://www.aorn.org/education/cueducator.htm>, or contact Holly Heston at (800) 755-2676 x 318 or [hheston@aorn.org](mailto:hheston@aorn.org).

**Ambulatory Surgery Administrator Certificate program.** This six-month, online program will provide the skills and tools needed to manage every aspect of an ambulatory surgery practice, from daily operations to regulatory requirements. After the initial two-day seminar, participants will complete 11 online modules. The next seminar will take place March 6 and 7, 2006, at the Hyatt Regency, Dallas, in conjunction with the American

Association of Ambulatory Surgery Centers annual meeting. Visit <http://www.aorn.org/events/ambadmindcert> to register, or call customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1.

**Online Advanced Ambulatory Surgery Administrator Certificate program.** AORN has developed a certificate program that addresses the needs of directors and administrators of ambulatory surgery centers. This course begins with a web-based seminar (ie, webinar) taught by experts in the field. The webinar is divided into two three-hour sessions presented on different days in the same week. Both sessions are required.

After the webinar, participants will take online course modules. Participants need to complete seven of the nine modules to earn the certificate and contact hours.

The program addresses issues facing directors or administrators of ambulatory surgery centers, such as compliance and regulatory issues and inventory management. Topics covered include

- competencies,
- managed care contracting,
- the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996,
- budget and business plan development,
- Stark/Safe Harbor, and
- inventory management.

The course will be offered April 18 and 20, 2006, and Sept 5 and 7, 2006. To register, visit <http://www.aorn.org/events/advambonline.asp> or

call customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1.

### FREE CONTACT HOURS

**Free 2.4 contact hours for independent study.** AORN members can earn contact hours by completing this independent study based on four sessions from AORN's 2005 Leadership Conference. Topics include the ABCs of teaching young children about nursing and three sessions on creative methods to discuss practice issues, including

- the aging workforce;
- using AORN's *Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines* beyond the OR suite; and
- medication errors.

For more information on free contact hours for AORN members, visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/freed.asp>.

**Free 1.5 contact hours for online patient safety program.** Free contact hours are available to AORN members via an AORN Online program, "Patient Safety in the OR." The goal of this program is to provide information to perioperative nurses about medical errors and adverse events in perioperative settings. Topics include

- definition of a medical error,
- frequency and types of medical errors,
- the contribution of system flaws to medical errors, and
- risks for medical errors.

Visit [http://www.patientsafetyfirst.org/Continuing\\_Education/](http://www.patientsafetyfirst.org/Continuing_Education/)

to complete this free program online and print your contact-hour certificate.

### Free contact hour for Perioperative Nursing Data Set (PNDS) online program.

Learn about the PNDS, test your knowledge, and receive one free contact hour. Visit <http://www.aorn.org/PNDS/default.htm>, complete the course online, and print your contact-hour certificate.

**Free 5.8 contact hours for independent studies.** These independent studies are taken from past conferences on infectious diseases. Topics include

- patient safety from a national perspective,
- severe acute respiratory syndrome 2004 and beyond,
- perioperative hypothermia and infection,
- infections in minimally invasive surgery, and
- prevention of surgical site infection.

For more information on free contact hours for AORN members, visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/freed.asp>.

**Free 4.8 contact hours for comprehensive Safe Medication Administration Tool Kit independent study.** This independent study will help AORN members implement safe medication administration practices in their facilities to ensure safe patient outcomes. Developed by AORN with an educational grant from Sandel Medical Industries, the tool kit provides concrete resources to enhance perioperative medication competencies and creates

awareness of safe medication administration among surgical team members. For more information on free contact hours for AORN members, visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/freed.asp>.

### ADDITIONAL CONTACT HOURS

Contact hour opportunities may be used independently or in a group setting to educate perioperative staff members. Nurses can earn contact hours by purchasing and reading or viewing the following materials.

### CD-ROMS/VIDEOS

Educational videos, CD-ROMs, and digital video discs (DVDs), most of which include independent studies, are available through the AORN perioperative nursing video library. Programs available for purchase address

- clinical topics,
- communication and conflict resolution,
- infection control,
- patient and family member education topics, and
- patient and staff member safety.

Discounted group rates for contact hours are available. For details, visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/videos.htm>. To order, call Ciné-Med, Woodbury, Conn, at (800) 633-0004, or visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/videos/htm>.

**NEW** One-year subscriptions for AORN Online video-based education are now available through Ciné-Med. For information on this service, visit

<http://www.cine-med.net/library/index.php?aorn>.

### PRINT

An independent study program based on AORN's 2006 *Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines* is available for 20 contact hours. A minimum score of 80% is necessary to earn the contact hours. The deadline for submitting the posttest and evaluation is March 31, 2007. The purchase price includes the contact-hour fee. The program may be ordered online at <http://www.aorn.org/bookstore/default.asp>.

**Perioperative management resources.** AORN has developed a series of perioperative management resources to meet the needs of current OR managers and staff nurses who are considering moving into managerial roles. These resources consist of printed manuals, online modules, and one-day regional seminars. The following manuals are available:

- Accreditation/Regulation/JCAHO,
- Block Time,
- Budgeting,
- Criteria for Selection and Implementation of Information Systems,
- Evaluation of New Technology,
- Meeting Management,
- OR Renovation/Construction,
- Performance Improvement,
- Risk Management,
- Statistics for Perioperative Managers,
- Stress Management: How

- to Stay in Control,
- Supply Chain Management,
- Time Management, and
- Understanding and Interpreting Financial Statements.

Online modules on Budgeting, Understanding and Interpreting Financial Statements, Meeting Management, and Performance Improvement also are available. For more information, visit <http://www.aorn.org/managers/online.asp>, or call customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1.

**Home Studies.** Nurses may obtain contact hours by completing Home Study Programs in the *AORN Journal*. New Home Studies are published every month. To print them from AORN Online, visit <http://www.aorn.org/journal/homestudy/default.htm>.

### GROUP STUDY MODULES

AORN's Center for Perioperative Education has inservice program, education, and specialty modules to assist nurses in making presentations to their peers and other staff members. The modules are designed to help orient new nurses and provide staff members with information about various required topics. Most modules can be presented in one to two hours.

All modules contain a printed study guide with visual aids formatted in PowerPoint, which are available only on CD-ROM. The modules are in a scripted format for the instructor. Stopping points included in each module facili-

tate discussion of specific facility policies and procedures, as well as various aspects of the module, and provide an opportunity for group interaction. AORN's *Standards, Recommended Practices, and Guidelines* is used as a blueprint for the presentations.

Module prices are \$189 for AORN members and \$249 for nonmembers. The following inservice program modules are available:

- Aseptic Technique,
- Disaster Preparedness,
- Electrical Safety,
- Fire Safety,
- OSHA Regulations,
- Radiation Protection in the Perioperative Suite,
- Skin Preparation, and
- Standard and Transmission-Based Precautions.

Contact hours are available for the following modules:

- Care of the Elderly Patient,
- Environmental Sanitation and Terminal Cleaning,
- Laser Safety,
- Latex Allergy, and
- Positioning the Surgical Patient.

Contact hours also are available for modules on the following specialties:

- cardiovascular,
- neurosurgery,
- ophthalmology,
- orthopedics,
- otorhinolaryngology,
- pediatrics, and
- plastic/reconstructive surgery.

**Preparing the Preceptor module.** This expanded preceptor module from AORN's Perioperative Nursing Course

101 is available for purchase separate from the course. The module uses the most current knowledge available to provide an opportunity for experienced OR clinicians to practice building their precepting skills with some helpful coaching. If your facility currently is licensed for the Perioperative Nursing Course 101, you already should have this updated module as part of your course materials. Two contact hours are awarded for completion of this module. To

order modules, call customer service at (800) 755-2676 x 1, or visit <http://www.aorn.org/education/in-service.htm>.

#### REGISTRATION

To receive an event brochure, call (800) 755-2676 x 1. AORN ensures that no individual with a mobility, visual, or hearing disability is excluded, denied services, or treated differently than other individuals because of the absence of auxiliary aids or services.

#### ACCREDITATION

AORN is accredited as a provider of continuing nursing education by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

AORN is provider approved by the California Board of Registered Nursing, Provider Number CEP 13019. ♦

*Editor's note: PowerPoint is a registered trademark of Microsoft Corp, Redmond, Wash.*

## Single-Use Device Reprocessing Under Investigation

The safety of reprocessing single-use medical devices is being examined by the Government Accountability Office (GAO), according to a Jan 10, 2006, news release from the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. The US Congressional House Committee on Government Reform asked the GAO to investigate this growing practice.

Companies that manufacture single-use medical devices do not endorse reprocessing and will not guarantee the safety of reprocessed devices. The practice is legal, however, and is becoming more widespread in health care facilities in an attempt to

control and reduce costs. After initially investigating the practice, the GAO released a statement in 2000 indicating that there was little evidence of harm from reuse of single-use devices, but it cautioned that the practice was not without risk. The GAO will continue to examine this practice and investigate its safety.

GAO To Examine Reuse of Single-Use Medical Devices (news release, Menlo Park, Calif: The Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation, Jan 10, 2006) [http://www.kaiser-network.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?hint=3&DR\\_ID=34696](http://www.kaiser-network.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?hint=3&DR_ID=34696) (accessed 6 Feb 2006).

## Corticosteroids May Be Best Asthma Treatment for Children

Although both inhaled corticosteroids (ICS) and leukotriene receptor antagonists (LTRAs) can help control mild to moderate persistent asthma in school-age children, ICS may be the more effective treatment, according to a Jan 12, 2006, news release from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology. During a 16-week study, researchers administered ICS twice daily or LTRAs nightly to more than 100 children ages six to 17 years who had mild to moderate persistent asthma.

Although the administration of both ICS and LTRAs led to significant improvements in many measures of participants' asthma control, partici-

pants who received ICS showed greater mean improvements across many other outcomes after eight weeks of therapy than participants who received LTRAs. Participants taking ICS experienced more days in which they had no daytime or nighttime asthma symptoms and had better pulmonary responses and inflammatory biomarkers than the participants taking LTRAs.

ICS Most Effective for Persistent Asthma in Children, According to *Journal of Allergy & Clinical Immunology* (news release, Milwaukee: American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology, Jan 12, 2006).