



News from the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety
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**COUNCIL ON SURGICAL & PERIOPERATIVE SAFETY RELEASES STATEMENT
ON VIOLENCE IN THE HEALTH CARE WORKPLACE**

Urges employers to take proactive steps to ensure perioperative team member safety

CHICAGO: As violence against health care workers becomes a growing concern, the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety (CSPS) today released a statement recognizing the depth of the crisis and encouraging employers to provide a hazard-free workplace.

In its statement, the CSPS says that violence or the threat of violence in the workplace must not be tolerated under any circumstances, and [it] interferes with the provision of safe, competent, and ethical health care.

The organization has found that despite the *Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970*, mandating that all employers have a general duty to prevent recognized hazards likely to cause death or serious physical harm, acts of violence are on the rise. In particular, nurses are at high risk for experiencing violence in the workplace, including intimidation, threats, physical attack, and sexual harassment.

According to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, 25 of every 10,000 full-time nurses were injured in workplace assaults in the year 2000, compared with two of every 10,000 employees in most private-sector industries. In fact, these statistics may reflect only a small portion of incidents, due to a belief that workplace assault is part of the job and, therefore, does not warrant reporting. The CSPS believes that responsibility for ensuring a violence-free perioperative environment is shared among all stakeholders in the health care setting. Furthermore, the CSPS advocates that workplace violence prevention programs, including education and training, should be implemented in organizations that provide health care and employ members of the perioperative team.

Incorporated in August 2007, the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety is a unique coalition of seven professional organizations representing the key members of the surgical team: the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants, the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, and the Association of Surgical Technologists. The Council and its member organizations have a combined total of more than 250,000 surgical health care team members and represent more than two million health care practitioners. The CSPS promotes excellence in patient safety in the surgical and perioperative environment and works to ensure that all patients receive the safest surgical care provided by an integrated team of dedicated professionals. For further information, visit <http://www.cspsteam.org>

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants

American College of Surgeons

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

Association of Surgical Technologists

The Council on Surgical

& Perioperative Safety

is a multidisciplinary

coalition of professional

organizations

whose members are

involved in the care of

surgical patients.