



January 2015

EORNA Board of Directors

**EUROPEAN PERIOPERATIVE NURSING DAY 2015**

Dear Colleagues.

As we shortly embark on European Perioperative nursing day, it is important that we plan and most importantly participate. It is important we all buy into the initiative in order to promote our message and the role of perioperative care workers. It is also a key risk management strategy to prevent patient injury and enhance patient care and safety.

The theme states 'Sharps Safety begins with you'. This relevant statement as the 2005 Health and safety document reminded us all that everyone has a responsibility for safety in the work place.

We also had the launch of the EU Sharps directive the endorses, methods, procedures and guidance on safest equipment which should be employed.

The education and practices of all staff need to be formalized in a ritual fashion so that all members are familiar with sharp location at every given occasion.

Disposal of sharps re equally of potential dangerous if a strict disposal regime is not in place and adhered to. Many cases have been reported where overfilling or inappropriate filling of a 'sharps Bin' have exposed many to potential injury.

We really encourage all to make a significant effort to enhance such practices in managing sharps. Indicatives that have been utilized by many across the globe include type of on table sharps boxes., user friendly disposable bins, change of syringes/ needles, protocols, counting of sharps of all kinds on the theatre table, Neutral zone utilization where there is no direct hand to hand passing of the sharps. .

There are many successful actions that have over the years contributed to awareness and change in practice. It is useful to allocate a sharps observer in main suites to monitor and guide staff and obviously to observe the accuracy of correct and safe practices.

This year's team is about sharp safety. We believe it still remains a significant issue among many health care facilities. I think it may be of interest to hear any of your experience that could assist the learning process. I, Merja Fordell and all the Board are looking forward to hearing of the different National Associations promotional activities and work for Perioperative Nursing day.

Stay sharp my friends and come up with some novel ideas/ workshops or changes if necessary to ensure colleague and patient safety.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Higgins  
EORNA President