Time Out Day 2024

Letter to the Editor

**[Introduction – name, profession, years]**

For a surgical patient and their family members and friends, a wrong patient, wrong site, or wrong surgical procedure is devastating. As a perioperative nurse, I am committed to reducing surgical errors and improving patient outcomes by taking a meaningful time out before every surgery, for every patient, every time.

The Joint Commission requires surgical teams to take a “time out” before operative and other invasive procedures in order for surgical team members to confirm the correct patient, procedure and the surgery. Despite this requirement, The Joint Commission estimates wrong site surgeries occur up to 40 times each week.

That’s why, on National Time Out Day on June 12th, hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers around the country are reminded to evaluate the quality of their operating rooms’ time out process. Time Out Day was established by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) to support the protocol and build greater awareness for this crucial safety measure among surgical team members.

As a proud member of AORN, dedicated to safe surgery together, I want to remind my colleagues in the OR to reaffirm our pledge to provide each surgical patient with a focused time out with the surgical team’s full and undivided attention. As a team, we can prevent errors by confirming key information about the patient and the procedure and committing to safe surgery together.