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Anaesthetic nurse specialist role: leading and facilitation in clinical practice - E Fynes, DSE Martin, L Hoy and A Cousley
Leadership and its effectiveness is becoming more prevalent within the nursing profession with anaesthetic nurse specialists showing their ability to lead, inspire and motivate others to work towards a shared vision in the rapidly changing peri-anaesthesia environment. Anaesthetic nurse specialists (ANS) must therefore be aware of their personal leadership skills and continually develop these within clinical practice. In this article current leadership styles will be discussed in terms of the impact they have on the ANS’s role in clinical practice. Additionally, the role of the ANS in the facilitation of learning within the peri-anaesthesia environment will be explored using a clinical supervision framework.

103 CLINICAL FEATURE
Surgical swab counting: a qualitative analysis from the perspective of the scrub nurse - D D’Lima, M Sacks, W Blackman and J Benn
The aim of the study was to conduct a qualitative exploration of the sociotechnical processes underlying retained surgical swabs, and to explore the fundamental reasons why the swab count procedure and related protocols fail in practice. Data was collected through a set of 27 semi-structured qualitative interviews with scrub nurses from a large, multi-site teaching hospital. This work highlights the human, psychological and organisational factors that impact upon the reliability of the process and gives rise to recommendations to address contextual factors and improve perioperative practice and training.

112 CLINICAL FEATURE
Safety in the emergency situation: the airway - a theatre team approach - E Mellanby, BM Podmore and AF McNarry
Managing an expected or unanticipated difficult airway can result in morbidity and even mortality (Cook et al 2011). These scenarios place considerable demands on the anaesthetic team and require the wider support of theatre staff. It is crucial that the perioperative team is adequately prepared for these time-critical emergencies in order to prevent avoidable patient harm. This article introduces the topic and discusses the core knowledge and skills required of the perioperative team.

118 CLINICAL FEATURE
Safeguarding adults - V Richardson
The safeguarding of patients is a key concern for all health and care professionals. Research shows that more instances of unacceptable care are likely to occur due to an increase in population of those deemed to be vulnerable. Increasing professionals’ awareness, knowledge and understanding of safeguarding and of the systems in place for reporting concerns is essential for best practice and for protecting patients and their families. This article aims to define safeguarding, raise awareness, and discuss our responsibilities to address the needs of a growing vulnerable population with regard to current legislation.

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