The perioperative voice in healthcare policy

There are many challenges facing existing world healthcare systems. Due to the current economic downturn healthcare organisations are under extreme pressure to meet the increasing demands of service within an ever decreasing budget (WHO 2010). The balance of maintaining quality of care and patient safety within this time of tight budgetary constraint needs to remain the primary focus of all healthcare systems. However, decisions will have to be made on how available resources are best utilised. These decisions will undoubtedly have an effect on both the patients we care for and healthcare professionals. Therefore, it is imperative that nurses and ODPs are constructively involved in all healthcare policy decisions to ensure that the focus is not just on money but on safe and effective patient care.

Tokenistic participation is not and should not be accepted. A representative voice from our professions should ideally be audible in every healthcare policy making committee.

It has to be said that the majority of us can voice our opinions loud and clear during coffee and lunch breaks but few of us like to take those opinions further afield. I am not suggesting that every thought or discussion in the coffee room would be suitable for outside viewing in fact most conversations would be wisely kept behind closed doors. However, sometimes little seeds of ideas are planted that never get the chance to grow because of all the other caustic information surrounding it. With the bad press that the health service has witnessed recently the healthcare professions need to start to rebuild public confidence. That is why my 2014 New Year’s resolution is to only engage in positive coffee breaks. So let’s stop moaning and instead take our pragmatic voices out of the coffee room and move them into the boardroom!

References

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