

The Virginia Hospital & Healthcare Association (VHHA) and the Virginia Council of periOperative Registered Nurses (VCORN) have issued a joint position statement setting forth their agreement on the following principles governing the use of Registered Nurse Circulators in operating rooms:

- Patient safety is paramount;
- RN circulators play an important role in working collaboratively with other operating room professionals to meet patient needs;
- The practice of Virginia hospitals and health systems is to have an RN circulator present in each operating room for the entire surgical procedure to promote the best possible outcomes; and
- There may be rare instances or emergency situations where an RN is unavailable to fill this role, and in these cases hospitals and health systems deploy staff consistent with applicable laws and regulations in the best interests of patients.

The practice in Virginia's hospitals and health systems is to have an RN circulator present in each operating room for the entire procedure. RN circulators excel in addressing the responses of the patient having a surgical or invasive procedure by employing their years of didactic and clinical education, professional training, and personal commitment to the patient. VHHA and VCORN agree that having one RN circulator dedicated to each patient undergoing a surgical or other invasive procedure who is present for the duration of that patient's intraoperative experience promotes the best possible outcomes for patients undergoing surgical procedures.

VHHA and VCORN recognize that there may be rare instances or emergency situations where an RN is unavailable to perform circulator duties personally in each operating room through the entire course of every procedure. In these exceptional instances hospitals and health systems deploy staff in the best interest of the patient, consistent with applicable laws and regulations, and taking into account patient acuity and the education, training and experience of the available health care personnel.

Hospitals, health systems, and perioperative registered nurses care deeply about their patients and are committed to providing the highest possible quality of care. VHHA and VCORN are pleased to have worked together to offer this statement on the critical role of the RN circulator in the perioperative setting and the important qualifications that RNs bring to such care.

The joint statement, "The Registered Nurse Circulator and Safe Patient Care," is available on the [VHHA website](#) and on the [VCORN website](#).