

S A T S

POSITION STATEMENT

THE REGISTERED NURSE PRACTITIONER IN THE ROLE OF PERI-OPERATIVE CARE

SATS believes that in accordance with the Constitution of SA and the Human Rights Charter, every patient has the right to the highest standard of care, according to his or her needs. It is a historical fact that a suitably qualified registered nurse practitioner assists the surgeon during a surgical intervention. She is accountable for her acts, commissions and omissions, and that of the support staff. We further believe that every peri-operative nurse practitioner is accountable for his/her personal skills and knowledge development, clinical practice and professional practice.

BE IT RESOLVED THEREFORE THAT SATS:

- **B**elieves that all professional peri-operative nurse practitioners must continuously update and upgrade their skills and knowledge
- **S**upports and agrees that such knowledge and skills must be provided by a nursing school or organisation, recognised by the SANC, for the purpose of training
- **B**elieves that the role of the registered peri-operative nurse practitioner is optimal to the outcome of the care to the patient
- **B**elieves in the provision and creation of a safe and comfortable environment, direct and indirect care, and the use of nursing judgement, critical thinking and good communication. All these form an integral part of the unique qualities of the peri-operative nurse practitioner
- **T**he peri-operative nurse practitioner can only be accountable and responsible for the actions and behavior of other SANC licensed service providers under her supervision
- **B**elieves that in the event of unlicensed caregivers taking on the responsibilities of the SANC licensed practitioner, the service provider be held accountable for any error in care
- **B**elieves that the peri-operative nurse practitioner must supervise and educate the surgical team, the patient and act as support to the patient and his/her family
- **D**iscourages the deployment of unlicensed personnel in the peri-operative setting, as part of the surgical team
- **S**trongly supports and endorses that the peri-operative nurse practitioner be in control of the operating room, during invasive and non-invasive procedures so as to ensure optimal care during the three phases of peri-operative care