

PROTECTING EVERYONE IN THE OPERATING ROOM: A Strategic Framework for Innovation, Inclusivity, and Impact



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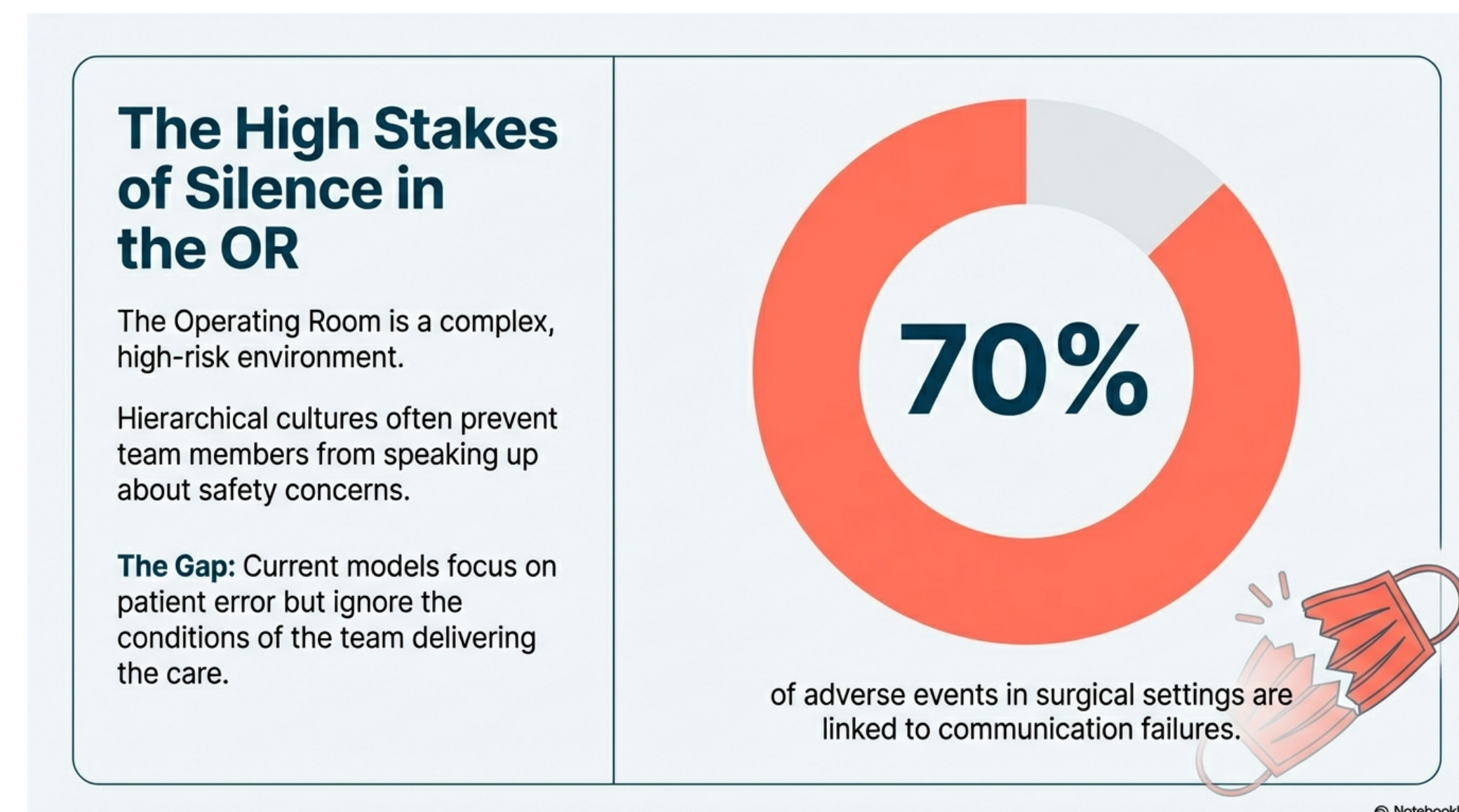
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BACKGROUND, PURPOSE & GLOBAL CONTEXT

Background: The operating room is a high-risk environment where patient safety depends on teamwork and system reliability. Communication failures contribute to approximately 70% of surgical adverse events. Perioperative nurses play a central role in coordinating care, identifying risks, and maintaining safety.

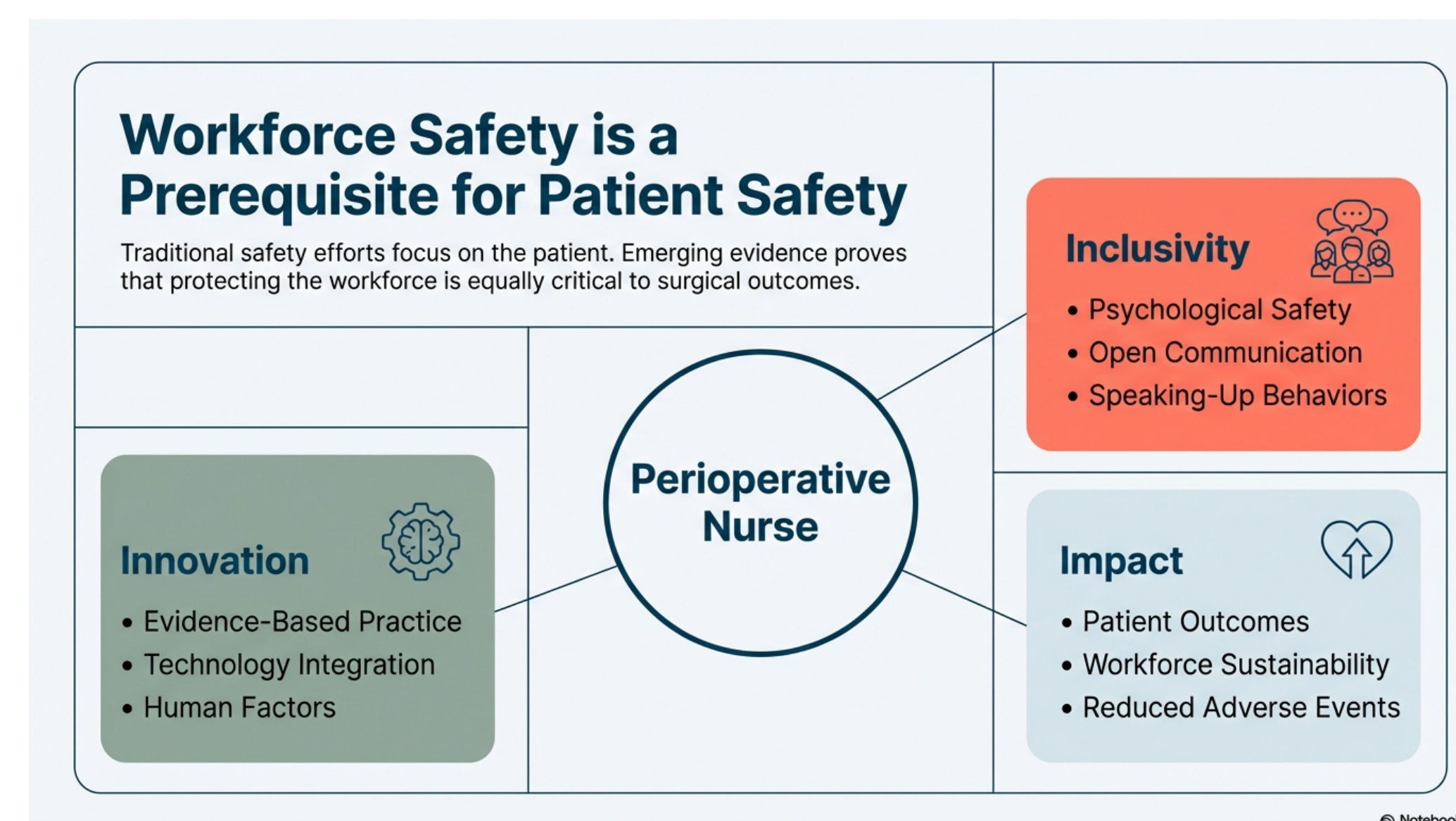


Purpose: To examine surgical safety through innovation, inclusivity, and impact.

Innovation – Using evidence, technology, and human factors science

Inclusivity – Promoting psychological safety and team communication

Impact – Improving patient outcomes and workforce sustainability



Global Context: WHO, ICN, and AORN emphasize workforce safety as fundamental to patient safety.

- WHO Global Patient Safety Action Plan 2021–2030
- International Council of Nurses workforce safety priorities
- AORN Guidelines for Perioperative Practice

INNOVATION, INCLUSIVITY & IMPACT

Innovation: strengthens safety through evidence-based practice, human factors integration, and non-technical skills development.

- Evidence-based clinical practice
- Human factors and ergonomics integration
- Development of non-technical skills such as communication, leadership, and situational awareness
- Safe and effective use of advanced surgical technologies

Inclusivity: promotes psychological safety, speaking-up behaviors, and interdisciplinary teamwork. These factors enable early risk detection and prevention.

- Speaking-up behaviors
- Open communication
- Interdisciplinary collaboration
- Mutual respect among team members

Impact: Protecting perioperative nurses leads to reduced adverse events, improved patient outcomes, enhanced team performance, and workforce sustainability.

- Reduced adverse events
- Improved patient outcomes
- Enhanced team performance
- Reduced burnout and workforce turnover
- Improved workforce sustainability

CONCLUSION

Conclusion: Protecting everyone in the operating room is essential for safe and sustainable surgery. Perioperative nurses are key leaders in creating safe, sustainable surgical systems.

References:

WHO (2021); AORN (2024); ICN (2023); Edmondson (2019); Reason (2000)