

# Periop CONNECT

AORN Connecticut 0701

## October 16–17, 2026

**Education & Resource Center (ERC)  
at Hartford Hospital, Hartford, CT**

### Join AORN CT 0701 Chapter

Celebrate the world of periop at the 4th annual Periop ConneCT Conference with nurses, surgical technologists, and sterile processing professionals for CE-accredited education, networking opportunities, and an engaging exhibit hall with industry partners.

### Pending approval 6.5 CNEs

This activity has been submitted to the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses for approval to award contact hours. The Association of periOperative Registered Nurses is accredited as an approver of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

**Approved for 6.5 CEUs**



## Register now!



SCAN HERE

**Attend full event  
Friday & Saturday**

**Attend Friday only**

Early Bird until 8/1/26 Full Price after 8/1/26

**\$50**

**\$75**

**\$15**

**\$20**

Registration includes CEs, speakers, posters, food, networking, door prizes and more

[aornct.nursingnetwork.com](http://aornct.nursingnetwork.com)

# SCHEDULE

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16

|             |                                    |
|-------------|------------------------------------|
| 2:30 PM     | Registration                       |
| 3 - 6 PM    | Welcome Reception and Exhibit Hall |
| 6 - 7:30 PM | Education Sessions and Remarks     |

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17

|                  |                                         |
|------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| 6:30 AM          | Registration                            |
| 7 - 8 AM         | Breakfast and Exhibit Hall              |
| 8 - 11:15 AM     | Education Sessions                      |
| 11:15 AM - 12 PM | AORN Updates and Industry Presentations |
| 12 - 2 PM        | Exhibit Hall and Lunch                  |
| 2 - 5 PM         | Education Sessions and Closing Remarks  |

*\*Schedule subject to change*

### Conference Objectives:

- Apply evidence based perioperative safety practices to reduce preventable patient harm across surgical settings.
- Analyze the impact of teamwork dynamics, communication, and human factors on perioperative outcomes
- Strengthen perioperative professional competence and resilience through education, innovation, and reflective practice

## Friday, October 16

**6:00–6:35 PM**

### From Penicillin Allergy Label to Action: Driving Perioperative Practice Change



*Fauve Cortese, BA, RN, CNOR, Perioperative Nurse, Bristol Hospital & Marcie Duplessis, MSN, RN, Perioperative Director, Bristol Hospital*



This presentation highlights the impact of mislabeled penicillin allergies in surgical patients and offers evidence-based strategies to improve antibiotic stewardship. Attendees will gain a framework to drive

practice change through collaboration, workflow redesign, and measurable outcomes.

**6:40–7:15 PM**

### Building Strong Foundations: Advancing Perioperative Practice Through Evidence-Based Preceptor Development



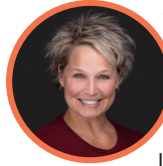
*Kristen Parker, MSN, RN, NPD-BC, CCRN, TCRN, Manager, Nursing Professional Development and Practice Excellence for Periop Services, Hartford Healthcare*

This project describes the implementation of an evidence-based preceptor training program tailored to the unique needs of a large interdisciplinary perioperative department at a Level 1 trauma center. The NPD-led curriculum targets seven core preceptor competencies for all perioperative roles (RN, CST, unlicensed personnel, CSS) and resulted in high participation, strong learner satisfaction, and significant improvements in perceived competence across multiple domains.

## Saturday, October 17

**8:15–9:00 AM**

### Can Implicit Trust in Our Team Lead to Medical Errors



*Jamie Ridout, RN, MSN, MBA, CNOR, NEA-BC, CASC, System VP, Perioperative Nursing Practice, Geisinger Health System*

In many ASCs and hospital systems, the surgical teams and physicians often work together, developing strong professional and personal relationships. But what if this creates too much trust, leading to blind faith and overlooking of safeguards designed to prevent patient harm. We will review the elements of trust in a high performing team and the risks associated with “taking their word for it”. I will explain tactics to mitigate risk and the importance of returning to basic practices to reduce potential patient harm.

**9:00–10:00 AM**

### Steam Sterilization: What Do You Know?



*Barbara Ann Harmer, MHA, BSN, RN, Vice President Clinical Services, Innovative Sterilization Technologies, LLC*

This presentation will provide an in-depth description of what every perioperative professional should know about steam sterilization. Through explanations, examples and discussions we will review the necessary steps in monitoring, testing, and ensuring quality control of sterilization processes.

**10:15–11:15 AM**

### Smiles, Scalpel, and Strategy: The Hidden Power of Humor in Healthcare



*David Reinhart, DNP, MBA, RN, CNOR, FAAN, Director Procedural Residency Programs EHI, Emory Healthcare*

Humor is beneficial to the business of healthcare. This presentation will review examples of neuroscience responses to humor and help you identify your humor style while providing appropriate examples of humor in healthcare and perioperative environments. Get ready to laugh.

**2:00–2:45 PM**

### Managing and Preparing for a Surgical Fire in Your Operating Room



*Darren Osleger, Fire & Emergency Management Consultant, Jensen Hughes*

This presentation will provide perioperative staff and leaders with the knowledge and tools necessary to prevent, manage, and respond to surgical department fires. Participants will review the fundamentals of the fire triangle in the surgical environment and compliance expectations from regulatory bodies. Attendees will learn how to conduct and document a Surgical Fire Risk Assessment, define team member roles during a fire event, and implement immediate response actions to protect patients and staff. Real-world case studies and practical scenarios ensure participants leave with actionable steps to enhance safety in their facilities.

**2:45–3:30 PM**

### Pressure Injuries in Persons with Dark Skin Tones: Key Findings in the Literature



*Cassandra A. Munro, PhD, BS, RN, RNFA, CNOR, FAORN, FAAN, Nurse Scientist, Stanford Medicine*

The development of pressure injuries (PI) is influenced by various factors. For individuals with dark skin tones, the visual identification of impending PIs through skin assessment becomes notably difficult. This presentation will provide current perspectives derived from the literature on skin assessment and PI development specifically in patients with dark skin tones. Standardization and quantification of skin tone assessment are crucial in clinical education, practice, and research.

**3:45–4:45 PM**

### From OR to Courtroom: Key Legal Pitfalls Surgical Staff Should Know



*Alexis Chaudron, EdD, MSN, MHA, RN, CNOR, NEA-BC, FACHE, President, AEC Consulting LLC*

Let's review common surgical issues that can result in legal action. Participants will learn how to recognize risk factors, improve patient safety practices, and apply this knowledge to real world case studies.

**Call for Posters**  
Submit your abstract by **Aug 31, 2026**

