



2016-05/011  
T:/D102

May 24, 2016

Perioperative Mortality Review Committee  
Health Quality and Safety Commission  
Wellington  
By email: joanne.minster@hqsc.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

**Consultation on Proposed Recommendations for Improvements to Care for inclusion in the 2016 Report.**

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the above. We have consulted expert members and staff, particularly members of the College of Perioperative Nurses and professional nurse advisers who have considered the background documents and the Committee's recommendations:

- a) Non-operative treatment for patients who are assessed as having an ASA status of 5 must be considered.
- b) The risk of dying perioperatively should be discussed with all patients contemplating an operation with a significant risk.
- c) Death following elective surgery performed on the weekend should be investigated in depth.
- d) Resources available for the care of electively admitted patients operated on in the weekend compared with those on operated on in the weekdays should be reviewed.

The feedback we received was overwhelmingly positive with nurses noting that the ASA tool is straightforward and allows for open and honest communication with the patient and family about the risks involved with operations. Accordingly, NZNO **supports** the recommendations. We are also interested in how the HQ&SC plans to measure and report the quality improvement recommendations and anticipate that the ASA tool will simplify the collection and analysis of data.

Nākū noa, nā

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marilyn Head'.

Marilyn Head  
**Snr Policy Analyst**  
DDI: 04 494 6372  
Marilynh@nzno.org.nz

## NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION (NZNO)

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand. NZNO represents over 47,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment related matters. NZNO is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

NZNO promotes and advocates for professional excellence in nursing by providing leadership, research and education to inspire and progress the profession of nursing. NZNO represents members on employment and industrial matters and negotiates collective employment agreements.

NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvement of the health status and outcomes of all peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment and social policy development enabling quality nursing care provision. NZNO's vision is *Freed to care, Proud to nurse*.