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Introduction

Nurses provide care every day and night in an environment characterized by rapidly evolving technology, patient acuity and concerns about resources and liability.

The objectives of this risk management booklet are to:

- provide a handy reference to help you promote patient safety;
- prevent malpractice suits in your particular setting; and
- improve defensibility in the event of a malpractice case.

This booklet also includes useful information on matters such as insurance and what to do when things go wrong.

Nurses in all settings should benefit greatly from knowledge of principles put forth in this booklet, although many examples will be of particular interest to perioperative nurses in the OR.

The over-arching principle of this booklet is this: **A nurse who does the best she or he reasonably can, and then takes credit for this practice through objective and thorough medical record documentation, reduces liability and enhances patient care.**
