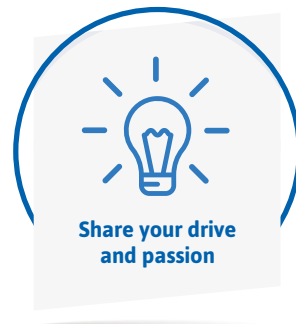# BECOMING A CHAMPION OF HEALTHCARE WORKER SHARPS SAFETY IN YOUR ORGANIZATION

Unit-based champions in healthcare are individuals that support and advocate the application of best practice in preventing injuries in the operating room. Unit-based champions play a key role in helping to develop and implement a plan for improving safety measures.

They motivate O.R. staff to align with a better standard of practice that will benefit patients and the healthcare service. This may involve the physical removal of old equipment or devices which pose risk, and replacing them with new, specially designed safety-engineered devices and equipment.

The introduction of a focused healthcare worker safety program success is dependent of the absence of competing or conflicting events, such as an accreditation survey or an outbreak of seasonal disease. Staff engagement and cooperation for new safer ways of working will assist the Champion in reducing resistance and adding value by providing high-quality care.

The remaining key tasks and proven methods for championing change are listed in the box below[1].

Make sure necessary resources are available

Communicate key messages clearly and simply

Share your drive and passion

Collaborate with peers of influence

Recognize and celebrate success

Individuals stepping up in becoming unit-champions are key in achieving changes to occur in the O.R. Preventing sharp injuries in the operating room have a significant role to play in patient's surgical outcomes. When applied properly, these above-mentioned recommendations have shown significant improvement in staff safety within the O.R.

Operating room staff as a surgical team, all share the risks associated with the complexities of surgeries. Best practice advocate individuals to take responsibilities of the patient, their co-workers as well as their own safety.

References:
1. Knudson L. Championing sharps safety in the O.R. AORN Connections. May 2012 2012;95(5):C5-C6.

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