

### **Nursing staff concerns over retained instruments**

The VSCC has recently studied a number of sentinel events involving retained instruments and issues with regard to the communication between the scrub nurse, scout nurse and the surgeon.

Council believes that it is important that all surgeons appreciate that nurses do not always feel empowered to speak up if they suspect an item has been retained in the patient.

***Nurses should be thanked for alerting surgeons of their concerns, not criticised.***

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