



## **Breathless – Cervical Spine Surgery Complications and Legal Issues**

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During the 2019 Annual Convention

**Summary:** Increasing numbers of people are having cervical spine surgeries and the bedside nurse must be aware of the possible complications which can occur. Timing of identifying complications makes all the difference with treatment modalities. Signs and symptoms of complications are discussed, as well as standards of nursing practice, and the presenter's research is shared.

### **Nursing Implications:**

- Identification of cervical spine complications is key to a successful outcome.
- The nursing process is vital in caring for a cervical spine patient.

### **Key Takeaways:**

- Oxygen saturation changes are not the first clinical issue one would see with a patient who has a complication.
- Using critical thinking is key to identifying those patients with postoperative cervical spine complications.
- Failure to rescue describes the outcome when a patient's condition deteriorates before the changes are recognized and acted upon.

**Link:** <https://library.amsn.org/amsn/sessions/5223/view>

### **References:**

Complications Associated with Orthopaedic Surgeries, An Introduction to Orthopaedic Nursing, NAON, 2018.

Huddle Up for Patient Safety. Lubinensky. American Nurse Today. February 2015, Vol 10. No 2.

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