**What practice supports are required for rural surgical nurses in order to ensure quality improvement?**

Please take a moment to reflect on the supports that have been beneficial in your rural surgical practice and the supports that you wish to see.

The literature highlights some of these points. Are these applicable to your practice environment?

* Because many rural and remote nurses work alone or with little backup in their everyday practice, there are pressing needs for providing professional supports at a distance, both in person and using information technology.
* There is a pressing need for undergraduate and postgraduate education programs to prepare nurses for the realities of rural and remote nursing practice. Targeted funding is needed for university nursing programs that focus on preparing rural and/or remote nurses to address the additional design and implementation costs.
* New ways are needed to systematically design and provide relevant continuing education for rural and remote nurses, including providing education on site, supporting nurses to travel for further and continuing education, and using information technology.
* Special attention needs to be paid to the recruitment, retention, and support of nurses in Aboriginal communities, as well as to ways in which continuity of care and culturally appropriate care can be provided.
* Nurses require access to appropriate expertise during critical situations where practice needs extend outside of their competencies.
* Many authors call for the inclusion of a rural component in undergraduate nursing programs to prepare nurses for rural practice