



**CIRCLE
OF EXCELLENCE 2026**



Theresa O'Connor

Circle of Excellence

Theresa O'Connor is a clinical practice lead at Penn Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia, and an adjunct clinical faculty member at Villanova University. She holds a Master of Science in Nursing Education. As the clinical practice lead in the Heart and Vascular

ICU, Theresa has led high-impact quality-improvement projects. Her initiatives have resulted in many clinical improvements, including a 44.2% reduction in hospital-acquired pressure injuries, a 50% decrease in central line-associated bloodstream infections, and a 50% decrease in catheter-associated urinary tract infections. In addition, she co-led an early mobility initiative for post-cardiac surgery patients, reducing the average time from OR extubation to first mobility from 20.8 hours to 8.5 hours. A committed educator, Theresa develops and leads hands-on training on critical care topics and devices, mentors colleagues and champions a culture of safety and excellence through skilled communication and true collaboration.