



Surgical Safety Checklist

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Surgical Safety Checklist

Do we need it?

- "I do not make mistakes"
- "It was not my fault that the patient died"
- "It is somebody else that is responsible for the equipment"
- "I know where the emergency box is"
- "I know the laryngoscope works because I just used it"
- "A piece of paper can not reduce mortality and morbidity"

**A piece of paper can reduce
M & M by 47% in Tanzania**

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The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

SPECIAL ARTICLE

A Surgical Safety Checklist to Reduce Morbidity and Mortality in a Global Population

Alex B. Haynes, M.D., M.P.H., Thomas G. Weiser, M.D., M.P.H.,
William R. Berry, M.D., M.P.H., Stuart R. Lipsitz, Sc.D.,
Abdel-Hadi S. Breizat, M.D., Ph.D., E. Patchen Dellinger, M.D.,
Teodoro Herbosa, M.D., Sudhir Joseph, M.S., Pascience L. Kibatala, M.D.,
Marie Carmela M. Lapitan, M.D., Alan F. Merry, M.B., Ch.B., F.A.N.Z.C.A., F.R.C.A.,
Krishna Moorthy, M.D., F.R.C.S., Richard K. Reznick, M.D., M.Ed., Bryce Taylor, M.D.,
and Atul A. Gawande, M.D., M.P.H., for the Safe Surgery Saves Lives Study Group*



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Checklist

Sign in

Before induction of anesthesia, members of the team (at least the nurse and an anesthesia professional) orally confirm that:

- The patient has verified his or her identity, the surgical site and procedure, and consent
- The surgical site is marked or site marking is not applicable
- The pulse oximeter is on the patient and functioning
- All members of the team are aware of whether the patient has a known allergy
- The patient's airway and risk of aspiration have been evaluated and appropriate equipment and assistance are available
- If there is a risk of blood loss of at least 500 ml (or 7 ml/kg of body weight, in children), appropriate access and fluids are available

Time out

Before skin incision, the entire team (nurses, surgeons, anesthesia professionals, and any others participating in the care of the patient) orally:

- Confirms that all team members have been introduced by name and role
- Confirms the patient's identity, surgical site, and procedure
- Reviews the anticipated critical events
 - Surgeon reviews critical and unexpected steps, operative duration, and anticipated blood loss
 - Anesthesia staff review concerns specific to the patient
 - Nursing staff review confirmation of sterility, equipment availability, and other concerns
- Confirms that prophylactic antibiotics have been administered ≤ 60 min before incision is made or that antibiotics are not indicated
- Confirms that all essential imaging results for the correct patient are displayed in the operating room

Sign out

Before the patient leaves the operating room:

- Nurse reviews items aloud with the team
 - Name of the procedure as recorded
 - That the needle, sponge, and instrument counts are complete (or not applicable)
 - That the specimen (if any) is correctly labeled, including with the patient's name
 - Whether there are any issues with equipment to be addressed
- The surgeon, nurse, and anesthesia professional review aloud the key concerns for the recovery and care of the patient



Participating Hospitals



Site	Location	No. of Beds	No. of Operating Rooms	Type
Prince Hamzah Hospital	Amman, Jordan	500	13	Public, urban
St. Stephen's Hospital	New Delhi, India	733	15	Charity, urban
University of Washington Medical Center	Seattle, Washington	410	24	Public, urban
St. Francis Designated District Hospital	Ifakara, Tanzania	371	3	District, rural
Philippine General Hospital	Manila, Philippines	1800	39	Public, urban
Toronto General Hospital	Toronto, Canada	744	19	Public, urban
St. Mary's Hospital*	London, England	541	16	Public, urban
Auckland City Hospital	Auckland, New Zealand	710	31	Public, urban





Results

Site No.	No. of Patients Enrolled		Surgical-Site Infection		Unplanned Return to the Operating Room		Pneumonia		Death		Any Complication	
	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After	Before	After
	<i>percent</i>											
1	524	598	4.0	2.0	4.6	1.8	0.8	1.2	1.0	0.0	11.6	7.0
2	357	351	2.0	1.7	0.6	1.1	3.6	3.7	1.1	0.3	7.8	6.3
3	497	486	5.8	4.3	4.6	2.7	1.6	1.7	0.8	1.4	13.5	9.7
4	520	545	3.1	2.6	2.5	2.2	0.6	0.9	1.0	0.6	7.5	5.5
5	370	330	20.5	3.6	1.4	1.8	0.3	0.0	1.4	0.0	21.4	5.5
6	496	476	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.2	2.0	1.9	3.6	1.7	10.1	9.7
7	525	585	9.5	5.8	1.3	0.2	1.0	1.7	2.1	1.7	12.4	8.0
8	444	584	4.1	2.4	0.5	1.2	0.0	0.0	1.4	0.3	6.1	3.6
Total	3733	3955	6.2	3.4	2.4	1.8	1.1	1.3	1.5	0.8	11.0	7.0
P value			<0.001		0.047		0.46		0.003		<0.001	





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