

**Website Suggestions**  
**Public Reporting of Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance**  
**June 2010**

Included below are suggestions for posting surgical safety checklist compliance percentages on hospital websites (required as of July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010).

While there are no standards or requirements for where to post the data, percentages should be housed in the same area of the website as the other publicly reported patient safety indicators. In addition, the rates should be easily accessible to the public and the media.

If the hospital wishes to post their surgical safety checklist compliance percentages within a department's webpage (i.e., the infection prevention and control page or an FAQ page for patients), a prominently-displayed link from the hospital's homepage is recommended. The public reporting of patient safety indicators is best served when it is posted where patients can easily find and understand the information.

**Posting Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance Percentages**

1. *Hospitals may wish to include some background information on how surgical safety checklist compliance percentages are calculated.*

The percent compliance is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{\text{\# of times all three phases of the surgical safety checklist was performed}}{\text{Total surgeries}} \times 100 = \% \text{ compliance}$$

The surgical safety checklist is considered "performed" when the designated checklist coordinator confirms that surgical team members have implemented and/or addressed all of the necessary tasks and items in each of the three phases: Briefing; Time Out; and Debriefing. Therefore, the SSCL compliance indicator is a process measure, measuring the degree to which all three phases of the SSCL was performed correctly and appropriately for each surgical patient.

**Information for Patients and Families**

2. *Hospitals may wish to post the plain-language questions and answers below (or something similar) alongside their percentages to help members of the general public understand your hospital's patient safety efforts, the reporting regime, and what patients may expect during a surgery performed at your facility.*

Patient safety remains the most important priority for [hospital name] and this involves ensuring a safe experience for patients who undergo surgery here. Our patients can

expect safe, high quality care, and one tool used to help ensure a positive patient care experience is a surgical safety checklist.

### **What is a surgical safety checklist?**

A surgical safety checklist is a patient safety communication tool that is used by a team of operating room professionals (nurses, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and others) to discuss important details about each surgical case. In many ways, the surgical checklist is similar to an airline pilot's checklist used just before take-off. It is a final check prior to surgery used to make sure everyone knows the important medical information they need to know about the patient, all equipment is available and in working order, and everyone is ready to proceed.

### **What information is included in a surgical safety checklist?**

Some examples of items contained in the checklist:

The Briefing Phase:

- Verify with patient name and procedure to be done
- Allergy Check
- Medications Check
- Operation site, side and procedure
- Lab tests, xrays

The "Time Out" Phase:

- Patient position
- Operation site and side and procedure
- Antibiotics check

The Debriefing Phase:

- Surgeon reviews important items
- Anesthesiologist reviews important items
- Nurse reviews correct counts

### **Will a surgical safety checklist be used on me?**

If you undergo a surgery at [hospital name], you can expect that the surgical safety checklist will be used as part of the procedure. It will be used by your health care team before, during and after your surgery to help the health care team familiarize themselves with your medical history and any special requirements that may be needed for your individual case.