

WHO Surgical Safety Checklist: aide memoire

Theatre team brief - at the start of the session:

Who is on the team today, what operations are planned, what equipment do we need, are there any staffing issues, any other issues, any timing issues?

Complete each section of the checklist before proceeding

Sign-in - immediately prior to induction, led by the anaesthetist

- Consent form checked
 - Surgical site marking checked (if applicable)
- Ward checks completed
- Allergies checked
- Anaesthesia drugs and equipment checks completed
- Check blood available in fridge (if applicable)
- Airway/aspiration risk assessed - assistance and equipment available (if necessary)

Time-out - immediately prior to incision, led by the circulating nurse

- **Surgeon, anaesthetist and scrub nurse/ODP: confirm consent and site. Refer to the relevant imaging (if applicable)**
- Discuss the procedure briefly:
 - Anaesthetist: introduce case, confirm allergies, ASA score; any concerns?
 - Surgeon: review case; any critical or unusual steps?
 - Scrub nurse/ODP: confirm sterile equipment available, any other concerns?
 - If relevant - perfusionist: bypass plans, any other concerns?
- Confirm antibiotic prophylaxis has been given (if necessary)
- Confirm appropriate warming measures in place
- Confirm thromboembolic prophylaxis undertaken (if necessary)
- Are there any new team members?

Sign-out - at completion of surgery, led by the circulating nurse

- Confirm procedure that has been performed
- Confirm swab, needle and instrument counts are correct
- Confirm the specimen has been labelled (if appropriate)
- Any equipment issues to address / critical incident form to complete?
- Surgeon/anaesthetist/nurse: review the postoperative plans

15.01.10