



**Brockville
General Hospital**
Healthy People – Outstanding Care

Safe Surgery Checklists Underway at Brockville General Hospital

As part of the new provincial mandate that went into effect April 2010, Brockville General Hospital began using surgical safety checklists April 12 to enhance patient safety. These checklists cover the common tasks and items that surgical teams deal with, and function to increase communication between staff before, during and after surgery.

The new safety measure builds on the government's Patient Safety Indicator Initiative launched in 2008. The list is based on a worldwide study of eight hospitals, including Toronto's University Health Network consisting of Toronto General, Toronto Western and Princess Margaret hospitals. Also included in the study were hospitals in Jordan, India, the Philippines, the U.S., Britain and New Zealand and Tanzania.

According to Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care web site information, the checklist initiative has been shown to reduce rates of death and complications among patients by standardizing elements such as review of test results, administration of antibiotics, and post-surgical recovery steps. Along with implementation, Ontario hospitals are required to run regular audits with a goal of 100% compliance, and report these quarterly to the Ministry beginning in July.

BGH staff welcomes this new addition's contribution to enhancing the hospital's "culture of safety."

"At Brockville General Hospital, patient safety is a top priority," explains Anne Rodger, Director of Surgical Services and Maternal/Child. "While we already had safety checks in place in the operating rooms, the use of the surgical safety checklist helps to improve the delivery of evidence-based standards and increase communication between nurses, doctors and patients."


