



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

Information for Patients and Families on Surgical Safety Checklists

Patient safety remains the most important priority for Brockville General Hospital 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 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 patient name and procedure to be done
- ✓ Allergy check
- ✓ Medications check
- ✓ Operation site, side and procedure
- ✓ Lab tests, X-rays

The "Time Out" Phase:

- ✓ Patient position
- ✓ Operation site, 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 surgery at Brockville General Hospital, you can expect that the surgical safety checklist will be 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 members familiarize themselves with your medical history and any special requirements that may be needed for your individual case.

What else is Brockville General Hospital doing to improve patient safety?

Here at BGH, we have a number of patient safety initiatives in progress, along with the surgical safety checklist. Currently, they are:

- Hand Hygiene
- Medication Reconciliation
- Fall Prevention
- Occurrence Reporting and Review


