

Surgical Safety Checklist

The Ontario government launched the Surgical Safety Checklist, developed by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, at the start of April 2010 and hospitals are required to publically report quarterly their compliance rates with the new protocols. This tool, which is now mandatory in all Ontario hospitals, is designed to get Operating Room teams talking about the procedure that they are about to perform, and has been shown to reduce the rates of death and complications among patients.

The checks includes three phases. The first is a "Briefing" before the patient is anesthetized where team members introduce themselves, confirm patient information, and discuss any potential issues or necessary equipment or medication. The second phase is a "Time Out" where the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurse verbally confirm the patient's ID, the procedure, the site of the procedure, etc. before skin incision. The third phase is a "Debriefing" before the patient leaves the Operating Room, where the entire team reviews the procedure, recovery plan, and any concerns.

The Surgical Safety Checklist promotes communication and teamwork and furthers the organization's patient safety efforts and compliance rates have been steadily increasing as more services start implementing the tool in a sustainable way. At times the emergent nature of a surgery may prevent all parts from being completed.

Compliance Results

	Hamilton General	Juravinski	McMaster	West Lincoln
January-June 2020	99.20%	99.89%	99.65%	99.44%
July-December 2019	98.85%	99.88%	99.68%	100.0%
January-June 2019	98.96%	99.88%	99.38%	100.0%
July-December 2018	99.06%	99.86%	98.61%	99.79%
January-June 2018	98.91%	99.91%	97.85%	83.00%
July-December 2017	97.99%	99.70%	98.45%	98.91%
January-June 2017	98.97%	99.73%	98.40%	96.90%
July-December 2016	98.94%	99.68%	98.12%	93.51%
January-June 2016	98.65%	99.56%	99.05%	86.89%