

Five Steps to Safer Surgery

Step	Timing of intervention	What to discuss	Comments/challenges
1. Briefing	Before list or each patient (if different staff for each patient, eg emergency list)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of team/individual roles List order Concerns relating to staff/equipment/surgery/anaesthesia 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local arrangements will determine when the first patient on list is sent for May also include aspects from steps 2 and 3 Could be an opportunity to discuss anticipated breaks during the list (eg lunch) May be difficult to get the team together
2. Sign-in	Before induction of anaesthesia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm patient/procedure/consent form Is site marked? Allergies Airway issues Anticipated blood loss Machine/medication check Is pulse oximeter on patient and functioning? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aspects of step 3 may be done here Surgical site marking should be checked by the surgeon at this point
3. Timeout (stop moment)	Before the start of surgery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Team member introduction by name and role Verbal confirmation of patient information Surgical/anaesthetic/nursing issues Surgical site infection bundle Thromboprophylaxis within last 60 minutes Imaging available Sterilising of instruments Anticipated critical events (surgeon) Equipment issues 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In practice most of this information is discussed before, so this is used as a final check Surgeons may use this opportunity to check that antibiotic prophylaxis has been administered
4. Sign out	Before patient leaves theatre	<p>Confirmation of recording of procedure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Instruments, swabs and sharps correct Specimens correctly labelled Equipment issues addressed Post operative management discussed and handed over 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Should include all team members (including surgeons and anaesthetists)
5. Debriefing	At the end of the list	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate list Learn from incidents Remedy problems, eg equipment failure Can be used to discuss five-step process 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Can be difficult to gather people together to do this Evaluation of the list includes a discussion of what went well