## Five Steps to Safer Surgery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Timing of intervention</th>
<th>What to discuss</th>
<th>Comments/challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 1. Briefing | Before list or each patient (if different staff for each patient, eg emergency list) | • Introduction of team/individual roles  
• List order  
• Concerns relating to staff/equipment/surgery/anaesthesia | • 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 | • Confirm patient/procedure/consent form  
• Is site marked?  
• Allergies  
• Airway issues  
• Anticipated blood loss  
• Machine/medication check  
• Is pulse oximeter on patient and functioning? | • 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 | • 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 | • 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 | Confirmation of recording of procedure:  
• Instruments, swabs and sharps correct  
• Specimens correctly labelled  
• Equipment issues addressed  
• Post operative management discussed and handed over | • Should include all team members (including surgeons and anaesthetists) |
| 5. Debriefing | At the end of the list | • Evaluate list  
• Learn from incidents  
• Remedy problems, eg equipment failure  
• Can be used to discuss five-step process | • Can be difficult to gather people together to do this  
• Evaluation of the list includes a discussion of what went well |