



Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance (SSCL)

Patient safety is an important priority for Halton Healthcare Services and this includes ensuring a safe experience for patients who undergo surgery at one of our hospitals. Our patients can expect safe, high quality care. The surgical safety checklist will help ensure a positive surgical experience.

What is a surgical safety checklist?

A surgical safety checklist is a patient safety communication tool that is used by our teams 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.

Will a surgical safety checklist be used on me?

If you undergo surgery at Georgetown Hospital, Milton District Hospital or Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital you can expect that the surgical safety checklist will be used as 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 verify and review your medical history and any special requirements that may be needed for your individual case.

Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance Rates at HHS

The surgical safety checklist is considered “performed” when the designated checklist coordinator confirms that surgical team members have implemented and/or addressed all of the necessary tasks and items in each of the three phases: Briefing; Time Out; and Debriefing.

	Oct. - Dec. 2010	Jan. - Mar. 2011	April - June 2011	July - Sept. 2011	Oct. - Dec. 2011
GH	99.2%	99.7%	99.5%		99.5%
MDH	97.2%	98.5%	99.1%		99.4%
OTMH	99.8%	99.7%	99.4%		99.6%

The Surgical Safety Checklist (SSCL) compliance indicator measures **the degree to which all three phases – briefing, time out and debriefing** – of the checklist were performed correctly and appropriately for each surgical patient. All three steps must be fully completed during all surgeries to achieve a rating of 100%.



More about our Surgical Safety Checklists (SSCL)

Hospitals continue to build on their commitment to patient safety. These efforts have been further strengthened with the adoption and implementation of the Surgical Safety Checklist by our Operating Room teams.

The checklist is a patient safety communication tool used by the operating room team to facilitate team discussion and ensure that everyone is familiar with the case, reducing reliance on memory for certain necessary interventions. Ultimately, they will improve teamwork and communication in the operating room, which can lead to improved patient care and safety, decreased complications and deaths from surgery, and better operating room efficiency.

Operating room teams have used different types of checklists for many years. The three-phase checklist that is now being used at our hospitals has emerged as a useful best practice because it organizes the information at the right moments in time.

Patients having surgery at one of our hospitals can expect to have the checklist performed during their procedure.

What information is included in a surgical safety checklist?

Surgical Safety Checklists are divided into three parts relating to different phases of a surgery (i.e., briefing, time-out and debriefing), and each section of the checklist has information that is relevant to that phase. Some examples of items contained in the checklist:

The Briefing Phase

- Verify with the patient their name and the 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 and side and procedure
- Antibiotics check

The Debriefing Phase

- Surgeon reviews important items
- Anesthesiologist reviews important items
- Nurse reviews correct counts