

# Safe Surgery Checklist template

Hospital Name

## Before Induction of Anesthesia

**Nurse** and **Anesthesia Professional** verify:

- Patient identification (name and DOB)
- Surgical site
- Surgical procedure to be performed matches the consent
- Site marked
- Known allergies
- Patient positioning
- Essential imaging available
- Risk of hypothermia (if operation >1 hour)
  - Warmer in place
- Risk of venous thromboembolism
  - Boots in place and/or anticoagulants
- Anesthesia safety check completed

## ANESTHESIA BRIEFING

**Anesthesia Professional** shares:

- Anticipated airway or aspiration risk
- Risk of significant blood loss
  - Two IVs/central access and fluids planned
  - Type and crossmatch/screen
  - Blood availability

## Before Skin Incision

### TIME OUT

**Circulating Nurse** asks:

*“Is everyone ready to perform the time out?  
Please state your name and role.”*

**Entire Surgical Team** confirms:

- Patient name
- Surgical procedure to be performed
- Surgical site
- Essential imaging available
- Antibiotic prophylaxis given within the last 60 minutes
  - Antibiotic redosing plan discussed

### TEAM BRIEFING

**Surgeon** shares:

- Operative plan
- Possible difficulties
- Expected duration
- Anticipated blood loss
- Implants or special equipment needed

**Anesthesia Professional** shares:

- Anesthetic plan
- Airway concerns
- Other concerns

**Circulating Nurse** and **Scrub Tech** share:

- Sterility, including indicator results
- Equipment issues
- Other concerns

**Surgeon** asks:

*“Does anybody have any concerns?  
If you see something that concerns you  
during this case, please speak up.”*

## Before Patient Leaves Room

**Nurse** reviews with team:

- Instrument, sponge, and needle counts
- Name of the procedure performed

**Nurse** reads aloud to team:

- Specimen labeling, including patient's name

### TEAM DEBRIEFING

**Entire Surgical Team** discusses:

- Key concerns for patient recovery and management
- Equipment problems that need to be addressed
- Other opportunities for improvement