

**General Key Messages**  
**Public Reporting of Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance**  
**June 2010**

**Context**

In addition to the many other resources designed to support hospitals with the public reporting of their Surgical Safety Checklist compliance, the following key messages have been developed to support hospitals in their communications activities related to this new patient safety indicator. These key messages may be used in conjunction with the FAQs sent out at the same time as this document.

With the increasing public interest in hospital performance, hospitals should plan for media interest in surgical safety checklist compliance. To further support hospitals, the OHA also has spokespersons available to field media questions and to provide provincial context surrounding the public reporting of this new patient safety indicator.

**For questions about the public reporting of SSCL compliance (and all other indicators),** please contact Dominique Taylor, Consultant, Patient Safety at 416-205-1372 or [dtaylor@oha.com](mailto:dtaylor@oha.com) .

**For media support,** please contact Amy Ouellette, Public Affairs Specialist at 416-205-1433 or [aouellette@oha.com](mailto:aouellette@oha.com).

**For questions about the ORBC reporting of surgical safety checklists,** please contact Reeza Canoy at the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care at 647-409-4713 or [Reeza.Canoy@cancercare.on.ca](mailto:Reeza.Canoy@cancercare.on.ca) )

**About Public Reporting**

- Patient safety is the number one priority for all Ontario hospitals.
- Ontario hospitals have embraced the provincial government's public reporting of patient safety indicators, and welcome the addition of surgical safety checklist compliance to the current list of indicators.
- There is a lot of work being done in Ontario to continue improving patient safety, and the surgical safety checklist is one example of the tools in place to ensure every patient receives the best quality care.
- The public reporting of patient safety indicators is about inspiring improved performance, enhancing patient safety, and strengthening the public's confidence in Ontario's hospitals.

- Beginning July 30, 2010, each eligible hospital will post on its website, by site, the percentage compliance where all three phases (i.e., briefing, time-out and debriefing) of the SSCL were performed for all surgical procedures in that period.
- Hospitals will be posting the bi-annual percentage of SSCL compliance on their websites. The first reporting period will cover the months of April, May and June 2010.

### **About Surgical Safety Checklists (SSCL)**

- The SSCL 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, using SSCLs 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.
- SSCLs 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.
- Operating room teams have used different types of checklists for many years. The three-phase SSCL has emerged as a useful best practice because it organizes the information at the right moments in time.
- The SSCL is a team communication tool used to inform all team members about important details regarding the patient and the surgery. It reduces reliance on memory so that one person is not responsible for remembering every single step needed for a safe surgery.
- The public reporting of our hospital's SSCL percentage compliance allows hospitals to establish a baseline from which they can track their percentage compliance over time.
- Patients having surgery at our hospital can expect to have the checklist performed during their procedure.