### Surgical Safety Team Communication

**BEFORE INDUCTION OF ANESTHESIA**

*Anesthesia leads*

- **Patient/staff has confirmed:**
  - Identification (name/DOB)
  - Procedure
  - Side/site
  - Allergies

- Consent verifies procedure?
- Consent for blood or blood refusal?
- Site/side is initialed?
- OR equipment available/working?
- Surgeon present in facility?

- Monitors applied and functioning
- Anesthesia equipment and medical check complete
- Special airway equipment
- Antibiotic prophylaxis ordered/initiated (60min)

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Team members are encouraged to speak up when any problems are noted.

**BEFORE SKIN INCISION**

*Surgeon leads*

- **Surgeon confirms with OR team:**
  - Patient name, procedure
  - Operative side & site/mark visible
  - Correct positioning (patient/table)
  - Relevant images available/labelled?
  - Implants available?
  - Specimen collection
  - Length of case/critical steps

*Anesthesia reviews*

- ASA
- Antibiotic given or N/A
- IV access/fluids/blood products
- Specific patient concerns

*OR staff reviews*

- Sterility/equipment/irrigation solutions
- Fire Risk Assessment score

Team verbally agrees or corrects discrepancies

**BEFORE PATIENT LEAVES ROOM**

*Circulator leads*

- **Nurse confirms with OR team:**
  - Procedure name?
  - Specimen(s)/labelling?
  - Estimated blood loss?
  - Any equipment/pick list issues?
  - Postop concerns?
  - Wound packing/dressing?

- Counts complete (instrument, sponge, needle)

- Anesthesia reviews
  - Transfer to ____/oxygen needed

*Info from anesthesia provider.*
*Info from surgeon.*
*Info from circulator/OR staff.*

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Based on the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist, [http://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/en](http://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/en) © World Health Organization 2008 All rights reserved.