TITLE

SAFE SURGERY CHECKLIST: DEVELOPING ALTERNATE VERSIONS

OBJECTIVES

• To provide clear guidance for the development and implementation of an alternate version of the Alberta Health Services (AHS) Safe Surgery Checklist.

• To ensure that minimum requirements are preserved on all alternate versions of AHS Safe Surgery Checklist.

APPLICABILITY

Compliance with this document is required by all Alberta Health Services employees, members of the medical and midwifery staffs, students, volunteers, and other persons acting on behalf of Alberta Health Services (including contracted service providers as necessary).

ELEMENTS

1. Requirements for the Development of Alternate Versions of the Safe Surgery Checklist

   1.1 When developing alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist, site-based operational working groups shall comply with the objectives of the World Health Organization (WHO) Ten Essential Objectives for Safe Surgery.

   1.2 Removal of any heading from the approved AHS Safe Surgery Checklist is not permitted.

   1.3 Alternate, approved versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist shall include surgical-briefing, surgical-time-out, and surgical-debriefing sections.
2. Developing and Implementing an Alternate Version of the Safe Surgery Checklist

2.1 On identified need, AHS facilities and contracted non-hospital surgical facilities may choose to develop, trial, implement and evaluate an alternate version of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist to enhance patient safety, improve the flow of surgical interventions and promote effective communication within the surgical team.

   a) Site, Zone or specialty administrative approval for development is required before proceeding.

2.2 Programs shall submit a request to develop alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist, with rationale, to the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network.

2.3 Approval from the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network shall be obtained prior to the alternate checklist being implemented.

2.4 A site-based operational working group shall develop, trial, implement and evaluate the alternate version of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist, ensuring that all members of the multidisciplinary surgical team, including surgeons, anesthesiologists, technicians, nurses and support staff, are involved in the process.

   a) First, review the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist Policy and Section 1 of this Procedure.

   b) Next, request a review by both AHS Quality & Healthcare Improvement, Accreditation, and Policy departments.

   c) Then, submit draft alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist, with rationale, to the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network for review.

      • The Surgery Strategic Clinical Network is responsible for reviewing all alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist and shall ensure that all approved alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist comply with the requirements outlined within this procedure.

2.5 Approved, alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist shall be trialed and evaluated in simulated, and then real-life, situations in the surgical environment.

   a) Evaluation of the alternate AHS Safe Surgery Checklist shall be completed and reported to the Surgery Strategic Clinical Network.

   b) The Surgery Strategic Clinical Network then shall share information about the alternate AHS Safe Surgery Checklist with Zone Implementation Leads.
2.6 When required, AHS facilities and contracted facilities undertaking surgical interventions may seek assistance with the development, trial, implementation and evaluation of alternate versions of the AHS Safe Surgery Checklist through the local clinical quality consultants (accessible at site and Zone levels).

DEFINITIONS

AHS facility means any facility, property, or ground owned, operated, leased, or funded by AHS.

Patient means an adult or child who receives or has requested health care or services from Alberta Health Services and its health care providers or individuals authorized to act on behalf of Alberta Health Services. This term is inclusive of residents, clients and outpatients.

Surgical intervention means an intervention that involves at least one of the following:
   a) general, spinal or local anesthetic, regardless of where it is provided;
   b) an incision below the skin or eye, into the underlying body structure or cavity; or
   c) an operating room, due to the condition or age of the patient.

Surgical team(s) means Alberta Health Services employees, and other persons acting on behalf or in conjunction with Alberta Health Services, including surgeons, anaesthesiologists, nurses, technicians, and other support staff involved in surgical interventions.

REFERENCES

- Alberta Health Services Governance Documents:
  - Safe Surgery Checklist Policy (#PS-04)
- Alberta Health Services Resources:
  - AHS Safe Surgery Checklist
  - AHS Safe Surgery Checklist - Ophthalmology
  - AHS Safe Surgery Checklist – C-Section
  - Safe Surgery Checklist Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)
  - Safe Surgery Checklist User Manual
  - Safe Surgery Checklist Process Flowchart
- Non-Alberta Health Services Documents:
  - World Health Organization (WHO) Ten Essential Objectives for Safe Surgery