Surgical Safety Checklist

Patient safety remains the most important priority for Niagara Health and this involved ensuring a safe experience for patients who undergo surgery here. Our patients can expect safe, high quality care and one tool used to help ensure a positive patient experience is a surgical safety checklist.

What is Surgical Safety Checklist?

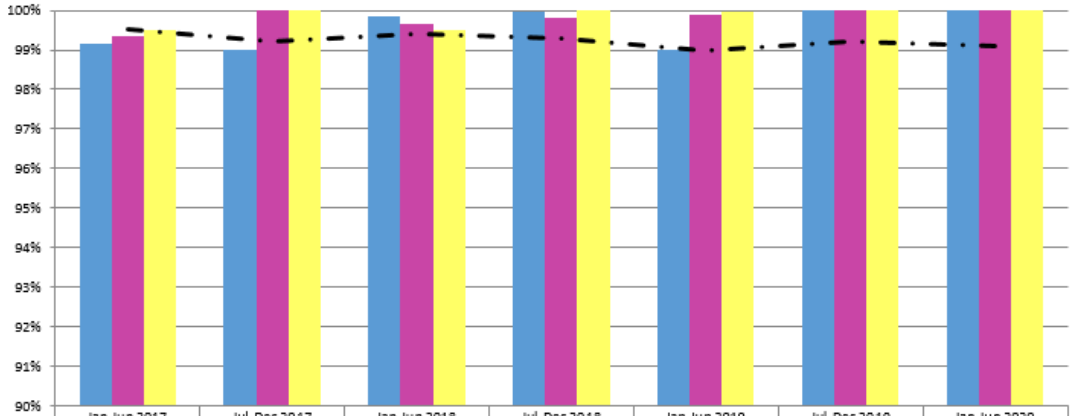
The Ontario government launched the Surgical Safety Checklist, developed by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute, at the start of April 2010 and hospitals are required to publically report quarterly their compliance rates with the new protocols. This tool, which is now mandatory in all Ontario hospitals, is designed to get Operating Room teams talking about the procedure that they are about to perform, and has been shown to reduce the rates of death and complications among patients. The Surgical Safety Checklist promotes communication and teamwork and furthers the organization's patient safety efforts.

The checklist includes three phases. The first is a "Briefing" before the patient is anesthetized where team members introduce themselves, confirm patient information, and discuss any potential issues or necessary equipment or medication. The second phase is a "Time Out" where the surgeon, anesthesiologist, and nurse verbally confirm the patient's ID, the procedure, the site of the procedure, etc. before skin incision. The third phase is a "Debriefing" before the patient leaves the Operating Room, where the entire team reviews the procedure, recovery plan, and any concerns.

What determines the rate?

$$\text{\% compliance with the Surgical Safety Checklist} = \frac{\text{\# of times all three phases of the surgical safety checklist was performed}}{\text{Total surgeries}} \times 100$$

Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance Results



	Jan-Jun 2017	Jul-Dec 2017	Jan-Jun 2018	Jul-Dec 2018	Jan-Jun 2019	Jul-Dec 2019	Jan-Jun 2020
Greater Niagara General	99%	99%	100%	100%	99%	100%	100%
St. Catharines Site	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Welland Hospital Site	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Provincial Average	100%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%	99%