

Document Title:	PATIENT SAFETY IN THE SURGICAL ENVIRONMENT	
Department/Section:	Surgical Complex	
Page Number:	1 of 3	
Document Type:	Policy	
Effective Date:	12-31-2021	
Document Code:	DPOTMH-I-38-P03	

PURPOSE:

To ensure patient safety in the operating room and to avoid or at least minimize surgical errors.

LEVEL:

Surgical Complex Staff

DEFINITION OF TERMS:

Time Out – represents the final recapitulation and reassurance of accurate patient identity, surgical site, and planned procedure.

Surgical Team – consists of doctors with different levels of training responsibility, working alongside other healthcare professionals (anesthesiologist, certified registered nurse anesthetist, operating room nurse, surgical technicians, residents or medical students) with different roles and responsibilities.

POLICY:

- 1. Circulating nurse shall ensure that the right patient is identified using the patient identifiers.
- Circulating nurse shall counter-check the scheduled procedure with the doctor's order in the patient's chart.
- 3. With the assistance of the patient, the surgeon shall verify the correct surgical site and marks it in a manner that will be visible after the patient is draped.
- 4. Marking shall be done by the surgeon by writing "YES" on the surgical site using a surgical marker by the surgeon. This is usually done upon securing a consent from the patient.



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5. A time out shall be completed immediately before the procedure begins. This is when the surgical team verifies the correct patient, procedure, and site. Any concern shall be resolved before proceeding.

DOCUMENTATION:

New Policy

DISSEMINATION:

Staff Orientation Policies and Procedures Manual

REFERENCES:

- 1. Med League, Legal Nurse Consultant (2014). *Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Patient Surgery*. From https://www.medleague.com/preventing-wrong-site-wrong-procedure-wrong-patient-surgery/
- 2. World Health Organization (2008). *Implementation Manual Surgical Safety Checklist* (First Edition). From https://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/tools_resources/SSSL_Manual_finalJu

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- 3. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (2021). *Patient Safety in the Surgical Environment*. From https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2010/09/patient-safety-in-the-surgical-environment
- 4. National Center for Biotechnology Information (2008). *Chapter 36 Wrong-Site Surgery: A Preventable Medical Error.* From https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK2678/
- 5. The Johns Hopkins University (2021). Surgical Team. From https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/treatment-tests-and-therapies/the-surgical-team



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	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	VANESSA V. VERDE, RN Operating Room Head Nurse		(8.13.22
Verified:	MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN, FPCHA Operating Room Manager	Amf	3-13-202
Reviewed by:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor	4	3-13-2022
	MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN Nursing Services Division Officer	felgeraun	3-24-202
Recommending Approval:	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua Total Quality Division Officer	Free	3/28/2027
	MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA Vice President- Chief Medical Officer	morgeniel	: 3-20-v
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		c /25/22



Document Code:	DPOTMH-I-38-P03-S01
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Document Type:	Standard Operating Procedure
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PURPOSE:

To provide a standard procedure on patient safety in the operating room and to avoid or at least minimize surgical errors.

SCOPE:

Applies to all Surgical Complex and Nursing Service Division staff of Dr. Pablo O. Torre Memorial Hospital

PERSON RESPONSIBLE:

All Surgical Suites Personnel, Nurses, Doctors, Auxiliary

PROCEDURE:

- 1 Upon arrival in the OR, the circulating nurse verifies the patient using the patient identifiers:
 - 1.1 Asks the patient to state her name
 - 1.2 Asks the patient to give her date of birth
 - 1.3 Checks the patient's name band
- 2 Circulating nurse counter-checks the patient's chart and confirms the scheduled procedure with the doctor's order.
- 3 Upon confirming, circulating nurse assesses and checks the planned surgical site if properly marked by the surgeon.
- 4 Before proceeding with the procedure, the surgical team declares a time out and resolves any concern.



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- 1. Med League, Legal Nurse Consultant (2014). *Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Patient Surgery*. From https://www.medleague.com/preventing-wrong-site-wrong-procedure-wrong-patient-surgery/
- World Health Organization (2008). Implementation Manual Surgical Safety Checklist (First Edition). From https://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/tools_resources/SSSL_Manual_fina lJun08.pdf
- 3. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (2021). *Patient Safety in the Surgical Environment*. From https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2010/09/patient-safety-in-the-surgical-environment
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- 5. The Johns Hopkins University (2021). Surgical Team. From https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/treatment-tests-and-therapies/the-surgical-team

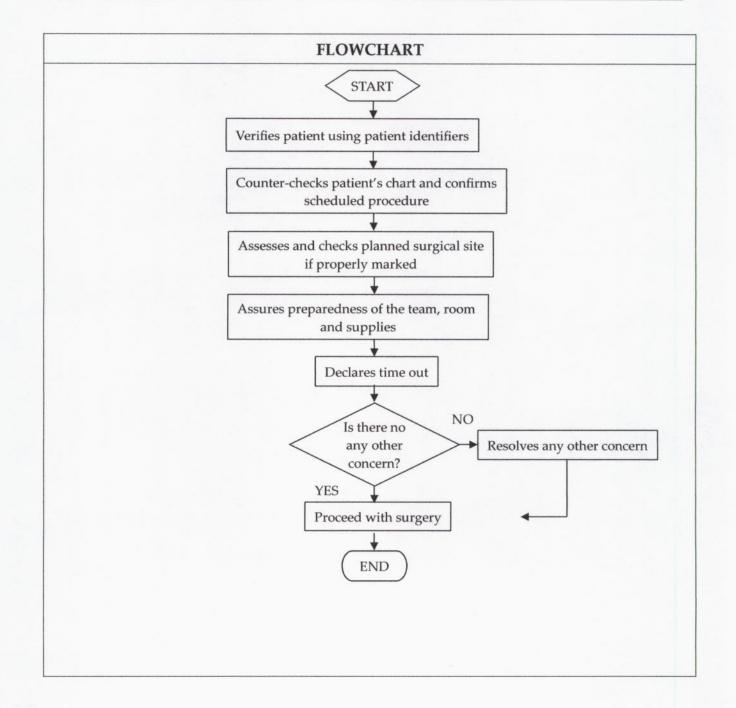


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	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	VANESSA V. VERDE, RN Surgical Suites Head Nurse	-	03.13.2022
Verified:	MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN, FPCHA Surgical Complex Manager	Amy	3-13-2022
Reviewed by:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor	\$	3-13-2022
	MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN Nursing Service Division Officer	plyman	3-24-2122
Recommending Approval:	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua > Total Quality Division Officer	Ameer	3/28/2027
	MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA Vice President – Chief Medical Officer	marginio	3.30.21
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		E/25/22



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	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	VANESSA V. VERDE, RN Operating Room Head Nurse	1	03.13.2022
Verified:	MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN, FPCHA Operating Room Manager	- Amy	3-13-2022
Reviewed by:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor	d	3-13-2022
	MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN Nursing Services Division Officer	Reperoun	3-24-912
Recommending Approval:	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua Total Quality Division Officer	Snum	3/28/2027
	MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA Vice President- Chief Medical Officer	margenrol:	3.38-m
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		0/25/22



Document Title:	PATIENT SAFETY IN THE SURGICAL ENVIRONMENT	
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	KEY TASKS	PERSON RESPONSIBLE	
1.	Verifies the patient using the patient identifiers by asking the patient to state his/ her name, date of birth and by checking the patient's name band	Circulating Nurse	
2.	Counter-checks the patient's chart and confirms the scheduled procedure with the doctor's order	Circulating Nurse	
3.	Assesses and checks the planned surgical site if properly marked by the surgeon	Circulating Nurse	
4.	Declares time out and resolves any concern before proceeding with the procedure	Surgical Team	



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	Name/Title	Signature	Date
Prepared by:	VANESSA V. VERDE, RN Operating Room Head Nurse		05.13.2072
Verified:	MARIA AGNES A. SARIEGO, RN, MN, FPCHA Operating Room Manager	Amp	3-13-2022
Reviewed by:	DENNIS C. ESCALONA, MN, FPCHA, FPSQua Quality Assurance Supervisor	0	3-13-2022
	MARIA LIZA C. PERAREN, RN, MAN Nursing Services Division Officer	filpum	7-29-2020
Recommending Approval:	HENRY F. ALAVAREN, MD, FPSMID, FPSQua Total Quality Division Officer	A nuce	3/28/2022
	MA. ANTONIA S. GENSOLI, MD, FPPS, FPCHA Vice President- Chief Medical Officer	margensel.	3-30.77
Approved:	GENESIS GOLDI D. GOLINGAN President and CEO		2/52/55