

AI0300 – SURGICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Däkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwepemc, St'at'imc's, syilx, and Tsilhqot'in Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate, and work together.

Interior Health recognizes that diversity in the workplace shapes values, attitudes, expectations, perception of self and others and in turn impacts behaviors in the workplace. The dimension of a diverse workplace includes the protected characteristics under the human rights code of race, color, ancestry, place of origin, political belief, religion, marital status, family status, physical disability, mental disability, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, criminal or summary conviction unrelated to employment.

1.0 PURPOSE

To provide direction and expectation regarding the consistent utilization and implementation of Surgical Safety Checklists to improve the quality and safety of care for all Interior Health (IH) Persons and comply to Accreditation Canada Required Organizational Practices (ROPs).

2.0 DEFINITIONS

TERM	DEFINITION
<i>Medical Staff</i>	<i>Appointed and held licensure to practice medicine, dentistry, or midwifery within facilities and programs operated by Interior Health.</i>
<i>Patient Safety Learning System (PSLS)</i>	<i>B.C. Patient Safety Learning Event System is a reporting system utilized to capture safety events electronically. Provides a mechanism to manage and identify risks and improve patient safety quality improvements.</i>
<i>Perioperative Team</i>	<i>Encompasses a multidisciplinary team including surgeons, anesthesiologist, gastroenterologists, surgical assistants, nurses, anesthesia assistants, perfusionists, technicians, surgical residents and other personnel present and participating in patient care during a surgical/endoscopic procedure within facilities operated by Interior Health.</i>

3.0 POLICY

3.1 All Interior Health (IH) Perioperative Team members will be familiar with and utilize the Interior Health developed and standardized Surgical Safety Checklist. These include:

3.1.1 Surgical Safety Checklist Operating Room [#824151](#)

3.1.2 Surgical Safety Checklist Minor Surgery [#826852](#)

Policy Sponsor: Vice President, Clinical Operations, IH North	1 of 3
Policy Steward: Network Director, Surgical Services	
Date Approved: October 2011	Date Reviewed-r/Revised-R: March 2025 (R)
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- 3.1.3 Surgical Safety Checklist Ophthalmology [#824152](#)
- 3.1.4 Surgical Safety Checklist Endoscopy [#824150](#)

4.0 PROCEDURES

- 4.1 Details regarding utilization of the checklists are outlined in both the standard process document [#SS728SP](#) and the associated posters (numbers indicated in above list) specific to operating rooms, endoscopy suites, eye care centers, and minor surgery procedure rooms.
- 4.2 Clinical Operations and Medical administration leaders are responsible for addressing all employee Medical Staff compliance concerns and monitor compliance through PSLs reports and the Surgical Safety Insight Report and bringing forward concerns to the appropriate committee(s) to ensure adherence to the policy.

5.0 REFERENCES

Accreditation Canada (2024). *Standards: Perioperative Services and Invasive Procedures*.

https://healthbc.sharepoint.com/:b:/r/sites/AccredIH/Information%20Resources/Perioperative%20Services%20and%20Invasive%20Procedures/Perioperative%20Services%20and%20Invasive%20Procedures%20-%20HSO%20AI1009_2024.pdf?csf=1&web=1&e=jumZBx

Canadian Anesthesiologist's Society (CAS) (2025). *Guidelines to the Practice of Anesthesia. Section 5.3: Patient Monitoring*.

https://www.cas.ca/CASAssets/Documents/Practice-Resources/Guidelines/2025_Revised_Guidelines.pdf

Hoballah, Kaafarani, & Tsoulfas (2024). *Principles of Perioperative Safety and Efficiency*. ISBN: 9783031410888.

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Interior Health Authority. (2021). *Policy # AL0100 Consent – Adults*. June 2021. Retrieved from

<https://healthbc.sharepoint.com/sites/PoliciesPortalIH/Shared%20Documents/Forms/Policy%20Manual%20Section.aspx?id=%2Fsites%2FPoliciesPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents%2FConsent%20%2D%20Adults%2Epdf&parent=%2Fsites%2FPoliciesPortalIH%2FShared%20Documents>

Interior Health Authority (2024). *Universal Protocol for Procedural Time-Out (Perioperative)* - CE/NCPD. December 2024. Retrieved from <https://point-of->

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World Health Organization (WHO). (2008). *Implementation Manual Surgical Safety Checklist (First edition); Safe Surgery Saves Lives*, WHO/IER/PSP/2008.05.

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