

What is a Surgical Safety Check List?



The Surgical Safety Check list is completed by the Operating Room team before and after a surgical procedure.

This safety check list is used in many hospitals in Canada and internationally.

The Ontario Ministry of Health has made the Surgical Safety Check list mandatory for all operating room hospital teams.

You can be assured that Trillium Health Centre is using the surgical safety check list and many other safety initiatives to ensure our patient's safety.

How does this affect me?

Before you have your surgery, you will be asked some questions as part of a safety check list process.

You may also hear doctors and nurses in the operating room confirming information. Don't worry; this is part of the routine to ensure the delivery of safe patient care.

Why am I asked so Many Questions?

Surgery is an important event in your overall care experience.

You may find that you are asked similar questions by different staff confirming your name, reason for visit, and health history overall.

An important part of providing safe care is confirming each patient's identity with two or more identifiers.

An identifier may be you confirming your correct name and spelling, date of birth, health card number, or other piece of identification.

I just answered that question to another staff member; don't staff members communicate with each other?

It may be frustrating to repeat information to different staff responsible for your care, but this is part of the safety process.



Please be assured that staff do communicate well with each other; we are confirming important information prior to providing any care to you.

These added steps ensure you and your family receive the best possible care.

I don't understand some of the medical language I overhear.

You may observe and hear report being given between staff about your progress and care overall.

Terminology used in health care may sound foreign, if you have questions about what you hear shared between staff, don't hesitate to ask questions.

Follow-up Phone call:

After having a day surgical procedure, a nurse will call your home as part of the follow-up to your care.



The nurse will ask a few questions to ensure you are recovering well.

You have been given a lot of information; it may be helpful to ask that instructions be repeated to you.

Be sure to ask the nurse if you have any questions.