

What is a surgical safety checklist?

A surgical safety checklist is a patient safety (SSCL) communication tool that is used by a team of operating room professionals (nurses, surgeons, anesthesiologists, and others) to discuss important details about each surgical case. The SSCL helps ensure that important safety steps are followed for each and every operation. It is a final check prior to surgery used to make sure everyone knows the important medical information they need to know about the patient, all equipment is available and in working order, and everyone is ready to proceed.

How is the surgical safety checklist rate calculated?

$$\frac{\text{\# of times all three phases of the surgical safety checklist was performed}}{\text{Total \# of surgeries}} \times 100$$

Trillium Health Centre’s surgical safety checklist rate:

Trillium-Mississauga	April 1 – June 30, 2010
Cases	2,746
Rate	97.65%

Trillium-West Toronto	April 1 – June 30, 2010
Cases	3,509
Rate	97.61%

What information is included in a surgical safety checklist?

Some examples of items contained in the checklist include:

The Briefing Phase:

- Verify with patient name and procedure to be done
- Allergy check
- Medications check

The “Time Out” Phase:

- Patient position
- Operation site, side and procedure
- Antibiotics check

The Debriefing Phase:

- Surgeon reviews important items
- Anesthesiologist reviews important items
- Nurse reviews correct counts

What is Trillium Health Centre doing to improve patient safety?

At Trillium Health Centre, we are always looking at how we are performing and use different *performance indicators* to get a sense of where we excel and where improvements could be made. This information is essential to Trillium’s commitment to providing quality and safe care for its patients.

Our Board of Directors and Management Team believe it is important that the community we care for has access to this performance information. Trillium strongly supports the provincial government’s new public reporting regime because we believe it will inspire improved performance, enhance patient safety, and strengthen the public’s confidence in Ontario’s hospitals.

