

## Background information

---

### **Project SAVED - Surgical checklist and improving the experiences of Doctors in training**

**Supporting Patient Safety First by using the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist on one new operating list on one day during Patient Safety First week, 21-27 September 2009.**

---

A core set of safety checks has been identified in the form of a **WHO Surgical Safety Checklist** that can be used in any surgical setting and operating theatre environment. Each step on the Checklist is simple, widely applicable and measurable and it has already been demonstrated that its use can reduce death and major complications.

An adapted version of the Checklist has been developed for England and Wales, by the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) ([www.npsa.nhs.uk/checklist](http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/checklist)) in collaboration with a multi-professional expert reference group. It was launched on 15 January 2009. The Checklist outlines essential standards of surgical care and is designed to be a simple and widely applicable tool to improve surgical safety. The NPSA is working in partnership with Patient Safety First, 1000 Lives Campaign and The Productive Operating Theatre Project to ensure an integrated approach to the implementation of the Checklist.

**We feel that engaging junior doctors, foundation years–registrar level (F1–StR/SpR) to help disseminate and implement the Checklist is an area that is currently underdeveloped and could benefit from focused support.** After all, junior doctors make up a significant proportion of the workforce and it seems appropriate that they should be key agents in engaging with the Checklist. Embedding the Checklist into training at an early stage would help strengthen a safety culture and ensure sustainability of the Checklist. We are working with representative groups of surgical and anaesthetic trainees – the Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) and the Group of Anaesthetists in Training (GAT).

As part of the Patient Safety First campaign's *Patient Safety First week (21–27 September 2009)*, a national call will be made by the presidents of ASiT and GAT for each member to encourage his/her team to:

- Undertake a briefing
- Use the Checklist
- Undertake a debriefing.

This will be for ONE operating list.

## Background information

---

Where possible the anaesthetic and surgical trainees should pick different operating lists. If the same operating list is selected, then separate online feedback forms should still be filled in by the junior doctor. Once the online feedback form is completed, the trainee will get a certificate that he/she can print out and add to his/her portfolio.

The principle of this project is **'one checklist (to include briefing and debriefing) for ONE operating list on one day and evaluated using one feedback form.'** The overall results from the feedback forms will be provided to all participants in October.

Further information is available at [www.patientsafetyfirst.nhs.uk](http://www.patientsafetyfirst.nhs.uk)

*Related documents:*

Step-by-step guide

Why use briefings and the Checklist