Surgical Time-out Checklist

A surgical time-out script is a structured verbal checklist performed by the entire surgical team immediately before a procedure to confirm the correct patient, procedure, and surgical site.

This process is vital for preventing errors and ensuring patient safety.

Key components of a surgical time out checklist:

Patient and Procedure Confirmation:
- Confirm patient identity using at least two identifiers (e.g., name, date of birth).
- Verify the correct procedure is planned.
- Confirm the correct side and site are identified and marked.
- Ensure the patient has verbally confirmed consent.

Team and Equipment Readiness:
- Introduce all team members, including their names and roles, especially when staff change or new members are present.
- Confirm the availability of necessary implants, equipment, and imaging results.
- Ensure the anesthesia machine and medications are ready and the pulse oximeter is on the patient and functioning.
- Verify that any necessary prophylactic antibiotics have been administered.

Risk Assessment and Critical Event Planning:
- Discuss and identify potential risks, such as a difficult airway or a high risk of blood loss.
- Discuss the plan for non-routine steps and expected duration of the case.
- Perform a fire risk assessment if applicable.
- Review any specific concerns raised by the surgeon, anesthesiologist, or nursing team.