

## ***Public Reporting of Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance (SSCL) June 2010***

Beginning July 30, 2010, each eligible hospital will be posting the bi-annual percentage of SSCL compliance on their websites. The first reporting period will cover the months of April, May and June 2010 only.

### **Information for Patients and Families**

#### **What is a surgical safety checklist?**

A surgical safety checklist is a patient safety 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.

Operating room teams have used different types of checklists for many years. The comprehensive three-phase tool developed by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute has emerged as a useful best practice because it organizes the information at the right moments in time and has been fully adopted by Southlake's surgical teams.

In many ways, the surgical checklist is similar to an airline pilot's checklist used just before take-off. 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 rate calculated?**

The surgical team is considered to be "compliant" with the surgical safety checklist when it is confirmed by the designated staff member that surgical team members have completed or addressed all of the relevant tasks and items in each of the three phases: Briefing; Time Out; and Debriefing.

The percent compliance is calculated as follows:

The # of times all three phases of the surgical safety checklist was performed x  
100, divided by the total # of surgeries performed.

#### **What information is included in a surgical safety checklist?**

Some examples of items contained in the checklist:

The Briefing Phase:

- Verify with patient name and procedure to be done
- Allergy Check
- Medications Check
- Operation site, side and procedure
- Lab tests, xrays

The "Time Out" Phase:

- Patient position
- Operation site and side and procedure

- Antibiotics check

The Debriefing Phase:

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

**Will a surgical safety checklist be used on me?**

If you undergo a surgery at Southlake, you can expect that the surgical safety checklist will be used as part of the procedure. Southlake completed their implementation of the checklist last year in all of our operating rooms. It will be used by your health care team before, during and after your surgery to help the health care team familiarize themselves with your medical history and any special requirements that may be needed for your individual case.