OREGON NURSES ASSOCIATION
ACTION REPORT
SUPPORT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF 
THE SURGICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST IN OREGON

Submitted by
Cabinet on Nursing Practice and Research

Recommended Action:

1. That Oregon Nurses Association supports the use of the Surgical Safety Checklist (Oregon-adapted) in clinical practice;

2. That ONA members who practice in surgical environments advocate for implementation of the Surgical Safety Checklist (Oregon-adapted) in their facility; and

3. That ONA support the creation of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist and the Safe Surgery Initiative.

Background and Rationale:

Worldwide, it is estimated that over 235 million surgical operations are performed yearly. Unfortunately, complications of surgery are common and preventable. A study to test a 19-item surgical checklist was conducted in 8 hospitals in 8 cities (Toronto, Canada; New Delhi, India; Amman, Jordan; Auckland, New Zealand; Manila, Philippines; Ifakara, Tanzania; London, England and Seattle, Washington). Subjects’ studies were diverse and varied with respect to economic status. The control group consisted of 3733 consecutively enrolled patients over 16 years of age who were undergoing non-cardiac surgery. The intervention group of 3955 non-cardiac surgical subjects received operative care that included the use of the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. The rate of death was 1.5% before the checklist and significantly dropped to 0.8% afterward. Inpatient complications occurred in 11% of patients at baseline and in 7% after the use of the checklist. Surgical site infections dropped from 6.2% to 3.4% after use of the checklist. The authors conclude that the checklist is associated with reduced rates of death and complications of patients at least 16 years of age who underwent non-cardiac surgery in diverse hospitals. (Haynes, Weiser, Berry, Lipsitz, et al, 2009).

Since publication of this study, the Oregon Patient Safety Commission, IHI node has reviewed and adapted the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist for use in Oregon. (Oregon IHI Node Network, 2009). The Oregon version of the Surgical Safety Checklist adds several elements to be met when the patient enters the surgical area, immediately before skin incision, and prior to the patient’s transfer to the recovery area. In all three stages included in the check list, the REGISTERED NURSE PLAYS A CRITICAL ROLE in ensuring patient safety during operative procedures. Oregon Medical Association, CareOregon, Oregon Association of Hospitals and Health Systems and Acumentra Health have adopted the Surgical Safety Checklist (Oregon-adapted) for use in their organization and/or constituencies.

This action report directs ONA’s members to continue a tradition of action at the level of their workplace, as well as action at the national and global level e.g., Action Report on Nightingale Initiative, 2008 to ensure that patients are safe.
The Oregon checklist is attached.

**Implementation:**

1. ONA becomes a signatory on the Safe Surgery initiative in Oregon
2. ONA provides copies of the Surgical Safety Checklist (Oregon-adapted) to its members;
3. ONA becomes a signatory to the World Health Organization Safe Surgery Initiative.

**Fiscal Impact:** None known

**References:**


