

Findings of the Review:



Manitoba Health, Seniors and Active Living (MHSAL) supports reporting and learning from patient safety events. The focus of a patient safety review is to closely look at the health care system that surrounds and interacts with those giving and receiving care. The goal is to identify risks to patient safety and recommend the most effective ways to minimize risk and improve the delivery of healthcare.

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Wrong Site Surgery

Summary:

A client consented to surgery for a trigger finger. The surgeon was not in the operating theatre while the team prepped, draped, and anesthetized the patient. The surgeon returned to the operating theatre and began the surgery. The Time Out phase of the Safe Surgical Checklist was not completed prior to the incision. A left carpal tunnel surgery was completed, in addition to the original consented surgery.

Keywords: wrong site surgery

This review is based on a single event

The Time Out phase of the Safe Surgical Checklist was not completed.

Surgical site marking was completed, but only to indicate the side that the surgery was to take place on. In this case, the marking was on the back of the hand.

The actual surgical site (trigger finger) was not marked. The client's hand was placed palm up for prepping and draping. The surgical site marking was not visible.

System Learning:

Implement the use of a surgical site marking protocol by surgeons.

Educate surgeons that surgical site marking must be readily visible and more indicative of the surgery to be performed. For example, the trigger finger would have an "x" marked on the finger tip.

Educate surgeons that the site must be marked by either the patient or the surgeon and that nurses are supported in this practice.

Update the Surgical Safety Checklist to reflect the clarity provided in the World Health Organization (WHO) Surgical Safety Checklist regarding site marking to differentiate between “if marking was applicable” or “not applicable”.

Post results of the audits monitoring compliance with the Surgical Safety Checklist for shared learning.

Develop and complete real time audits for completion of the Surgical Safety Checklist, which will include all criteria listed on the checklist.

Date of Posting: June 2018