

*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***

### ***Incorrect Surgical Procedure***

#### **Summary:**

Surgical team prepared patient for and patient consented to a laparoscopic abdominal surgery. Upon initiating the surgery, it was discovered that this procedure had been previously completed and removal of adhesions was then performed.

#### **Keywords: Surgery, Consent, History and Physical, Documentation**

This review is based on a single event.

#### **Findings of the Review:**

The referral letter to the surgeon was completed electronically and did not capture the patient's previous surgical history, as it was not part of the electronic health record. The referring physician was unaware of previous surgery and the patient did not mention the previous surgery.

The pre-op physical and history assessment is completed by the surgeon for this surgical facility. This facility does not use a standardized form for pre-op history and physical assessment.

Diagnostic imaging was completed for the patient, but results were not sent to the surgical facility with the booking information. Diagnostic information is available electronically, but was not utilized due to limited awareness.

Pre-operative assessment and anesthetic consult was completed, and the previous surgery was not mentioned.

The patient's paper health record was available but not reviewed.

The process for booking a surgical procedure has multiple steps.

#### **System Learning:**

Explore the implementation of the standardized history and physical form with surgeons at this facility to provide all pertinent information on the patient's surgical chart.

Review Pre-Op Assessment expectations with staff involved in providing pre-op assessments.

Review Surgical booking documentation requirements with surgical clinics.

Review process of accessing diagnostic information electronically with staff who have access.

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