

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:

The patient consented to surgical release of their index trigger finger. The Time Out phase of the Safe Surgical Checklist was completed followed by the departure of a surgical team member from the Operating Room theatre.

Upon the return of the team member to the operating theatre, the surgery commenced.

An additional carpal tunnel surgery was inadvertently performed in addition to the planned index trigger finger surgery.

Keywords: wrong site surgery

Device Name (if applicable):

Drug/Name/Fluid Name: (if applicable):

Type of Analysis: single event

Findings of the Review:

- The Time Out phase of the Safe Surgery Checklist was completed but not, according to policy, immediately prior to incision.
- Improvements were identified related to surgical site marking process as well as opportunities to confirm these on the Surgical Safety Checklist.

System Learning:

- Educate surgeons that the surgical site must be:
 - Marked by either the patient or the surgeon and that nurses are being supported to adhere to this practice
 - Readily visible after draping and closer the surgical site. For example, the trigger finger would have an “x” marked on the fingertip.
- Update the Surgical Safety Checklist for clarity with respect to two surgical site marking options.

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