

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

Surgical Incision Awareness

Summary:

A patient underwent a scheduled right hip replacement. The patient was administered a spinal anesthetic for the procedure. There were concerns regarding the effectiveness of the spinal anesthetic prior to beginning the surgery. The surgical procedure commenced with the initial incision. At this time, the patient experienced significant pain.

Keywords: Surgical Incision Awareness

This review is based on a single event.

Findings of the Review:

The patient reported significant pain with the initial surgical incision.

There is a perceived hierarchy in the Operating Room that influenced communication among team members. There was an inability to express concerns with the spinal block.

Team members were focused on individual tasks needing to be completed and were distantly aware of the concerns with the spinal block. This indicates a lack of cohesiveness among the Operating Room team.

The Surgical Safety Checklist was being partially utilized at the facility. In addition, two different draft versions were being used over the course of two surgeries. Although both versions contained the same content, the formatting was different.

System Learning:

Continue to educate health care providers on the surgical safety checklist policy

Once education is completed, the site to utilize and audit the implementation of the surgical safety checklist policy.

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