

High 5s Fact Sheet

The High 5s Correct Site Surgery Standard Operating Protocol

The High 5s Correct Site Surgery Standard Operating Protocol (CSS-SOP) is a series of procedural steps designed to be integrated in a standardized manner into a surgical facility's process for preparing its patients for surgery. The purpose of this SOP is to eliminate the possibility of an incorrect surgery, that is, surgery that has been initiated involving the wrong procedure, wrong patient, wrong site (including wrong side or wrong organ), or wrong implant. Considered preventable occurrences, these cases are largely the result of miscommunication and unavailable or incorrect information.



CORRECT SITE



CORRECT PROCEDURE



CORRECT PERSON



The *High 5s Project: Action on Patient Safety* was a patient safety collaborative including a group of countries and the World Health Organization (WHO) Collaborating Centre for Patient Safety in support of the *WHO Patient Safety Programme*. From 2005 through 2014, the High 5s Project developed, tested, implemented and evaluated Standard Operating Protocols including this CSS-SOP. The Mission of the High 5s Project was to facilitate implementation and evaluation of standardized patient safety solutions within a global learning community to achieve measurable, significant, and sustained reductions in highly important patient safety problems.

Detailed analyses of many cases of incorrect surgery indicate that a major contributing factor to error is the lack of a standardized preoperative process and likely a degree of staff automaticity (checking without thinking) in the approaches to the preoperative check routines. Wrong site, wrong procedure, wrong person surgery is preventable through consistent, mindful implementation of this SOP.



PREOPERATIVE VERIFICATION

Correct surgery requires correct patient identification, correct diagnosis, selection of the appropriate procedure, determination of the correct site of the surgery, proper positioning of the patient, and availability of all necessary equipment. Incorrect surgery is preventable with consistent, effective implementation of the following three complementary components:



OPERATIVE SITE MARKING

- Pre-operative verification using a pre-op check list
- Marking the operative site
- Final "time out" immediately before starting the procedure



FINAL "TIME OUT" VERIFICATION

The High 5s SOPs are now available for general implementation. In the interest of improving patient safety, WHO encourages Member States to promote implementation of these SOPs in their health care facilities and recommends their implementation *as written*. To do otherwise defeats the purpose and the value of the standard operating protocols.