

Dear Speaker,

Thank you so much for agreeing to be an ambassador for the Safe Surgery Saves Lives campaign. Now that we have entered the dissemination phase of our project, our success hinges upon the spread of knowledge and enthusiasm to stakeholders across the globe, and we cannot accomplish this without help from people like you.

This document is intended to supplement the “Speakers’ Kit Powerpoint,” providing you with both the key messages your presentation should cover as well as suggested talking points for each slide in the associated Powerpoint. Nonetheless, we understand that each speaking engagement is unique, and we encourage you to adjust the slides as well as the material covered to best serve your audience – please make the talk your own!

Finally, we suggest that you read the Safe Surgery Saves Lives FAQ (also provided) thoroughly before giving your presentation so that you are best able to answer any questions your audience may pose. Good luck, and as always, please contact us at [safesurgery@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:safesurgery@hsph.harvard.edu) or visit our website, [www.safesurg.org](http://www.safesurg.org), if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

The Safe Surgery Saves Lives Team

## Key Messages to Convey During Your Talk

1. Surgical safety is currently unrecognized as a public health issue
2. Standards of care are unevenly applied in all countries and all settings
3. The Safe Surgery Saves Lives campaign has created 10 objectives for surgical safety that have been incorporated into a simple checklist that can be implemented anywhere in the world
4. The Checklist has been proven to dramatically decrease complications and deaths
5. A country needs to measure its surgical services and outcomes in order to develop appropriate public health policies to address the needs of its population

## Talking Points for Powerpoint Presentation

Slide 1: WHO Patient Safety: Safe Surgery Saves Lives

- N/A

Slide 2: Surgical Public Health

- Introduction

Slide 3: 3 Central Problems in Surgical Safety

- Surgical safety is crippled by its lack of recognition as a public health problem, a dearth of relevant data, and a general failure to apply known standards of care consistently

Slide 4: Problem 1: Unrecognized as public health issue

- Estimates show that approximately 234 million major operations are performed every year – one for every 25 human beings on Earth

Slide 5: Problem 1: Unrecognized as public health issue (cont.)

- Already a serious public health issue, worldwide surgical volume is only expected to increase

Slide 6: Problem 1: Unrecognized as public health issue (cont.)

- Surgery has high rates of morbidity and mortality – at least 7 million people a year experience disabling surgical complications, and more than one million die

Slide 7: Problem 2: Lack of Data on Surgery and Outcomes

- Public health campaigns rely on data collection, and yet we lack almost any fundamental data about global surgical services and outcomes

Slide 8: Problem 3: Failure to use existing safety know-how

- Failure to consistently use proven standards of care means that problems persist with surgical site infections, anesthesia complications, and wrong-patient, wrong-site operations

Slide 9: The Safe Surgery Saves Lives Strategy

- The SSSL Campaign strives to promote surgical safety as a public health concern, to develop a checklist to address this concern, and to collect data at a national level in order to inform future public health policies

Slide 10: WHO's 10 Objectives for Safe Surgery

- Over a two year period, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and patient safety experts from around the world developed the following 10 objectives for safe surgery using peer-reviewed evidence and expert consensus

Slide 11: WHO's 10 Objectives for Safe Surgery (cont.)

- N/A

Slide 12: Reality Check

- Although you may think that your hospital already does these things, use of the checklist is vital to ensure that all necessary steps are completed consistently

Slide 13: Advantages of Using a Checklist

- Given its simplicity and effectiveness, a checklist is the perfect tool to achieve these 10 objectives

Slide 14: What is this tool that addresses the 10 objectives?

- The experts generated this surgical safety checklist, designed to address all 10 of the objectives set forth in the WHO Guidelines for Safe Surgery

Slide 15:

- Before induction of anaesthesia – to be performed just before the patient undergoes anesthesia

Slide 16:

- Before skin incision – to be performed just before the first incision

Slide 17:

- Before patient leaves operating room – to be performed after the surgery is complete, usually while the surgeon is closing

Slide 18: The Checklist was piloted in 8 cities

- Once developed, this surgery checklist was tested in 8 pilot cities across the globe:
  - Toronto, Canada
  - London, United Kingdom
  - Amman, Jordan
  - Manila, Philippines
  - Auckland, New Zealand
  - New Delhi, India
  - Ifakara, Tanzania
  - Seattle, USA

Slide 19: ...and was found to reduce the rate of postoperative complications and death by more than one-third!

Slide 20: Results – All Sites

- Indeed, use of the checklist resulted in statistically significant improvements in a number of important facets of care – not only deaths and complications, but also surgical site infections and unplanned return to the operating room.

Slide 21: Change in Deaths and Complications by Income Classification

- Across the board – in both the developing and the developed nations where it was tested – the Checklist was found to increase adherence to basic standards and to reduce morbidity and mortality

Slide 22: What problems does this checklist address?

- The Checklist delineates key steps during perioperative care that should be accomplished during every operation in order to ensure correct patient, operation, and operative site

Slide 23: What problems does this checklist address? (cont.)

- Elements of the Checklist also encourage safe anaesthesia practice and resuscitation

Slide 24: What problems does this checklist address? (cont.)

- The Checklist helps minimize the risk of surgical site infection

Slide 25: What problems does this checklist address? (cont.)

- The Checklist also helps foster effective teamwork, something that was recently recognized as an important component of perioperative care

Slide 26: Data Collection at a National Level (Surgical Vital Statistics)

- In order to address the global lack of surgical data, checklist implementation has been coupled with an effort to collect Surgical Vital Statistics in the institutions and nations in which it is used

Slide 27: Goals of the Safe Surgery Saves Lives Program

- Dissemination goals include benchmarks for checklist implementation and data collection in the coming years

Slide 28: Easy Math

- With 500,000 lives on the line every year, it is imperative that we spread the Checklist widely and rapidly

Slide 29: Resources and Information Available at:

- For more information and helpful resources, visit our website [www.safesurg.org](http://www.safesurg.org) or [www.who.int/safesurgery](http://www.who.int/safesurgery)