

World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist

Ten essential objectives for safe surgery:

Objective 1: The team will operate on the correct patient at the correct site

Objective 2: The team will use methods known to prevent harm from administration of anaesthetics, while protecting the patient from pain

Objective 3: The team will recognize and effectively prepare for life-threatening loss of airway or respiratory function

Objective 4: The team will recognize and effectively prepare for risk of high blood loss

Objective 5: The team will avoid inducing an allergic or adverse drug reaction for which the patient is known to be at significant risk

Objective 6: The team will consistently use methods known to minimize the risk for surgical site infection

Objective 7: The team will prevent inadvertent retention of instruments and sponges in surgical wounds

Objective 8: The team will secure and accurately identify all surgical specimens

Objective 9: The team will effectively communicate and exchange critical information for the safe conduct of the operation

Objective 10: Hospitals and public health systems will establish routine surveillance of surgical capacity, volume and results