

## TIME-OUT

**Step 4** – Much like a captain of a ship or airplane, your doctor should review the safety check list. This is the purpose of a **TIME-OUT** right prior to surgery.



**TIME-OUT** may take place in the operating room and you, the patient may not actually be awake.



**Step 5** – One more round of checking to protect your safety! Your provider should call the time out in order to check the following:

**C<sup>1</sup>) Is this the correct patient?** – at least two forms of identification must be used.

**C<sup>2</sup>) Has the patient consented to the right procedure?** – your consent form and medical record will be reviewed against what is planned.

**C<sup>3</sup>) Is this the right site?** – this is checked with the medical record, your consent form, and any x-rays available.

## Questions to ask your provider team

- 1) What is the name of the surgery you are performing?
- 2) Where or what body part will you be operating on?
- 3) What are the risks of this procedure?
- 4) Who is in charge of the surgery team?  
What is their name?  

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MD Name
- 5) What steps have you taken to assure that my surgical procedure is correct?
- 6) What are your plans for a time out?
- 7) How can I help in assuring that I do not experience a wrong site surgery?

## References and sponsorships

VHA Directive 2002-070. Department of Veterans Affairs, September 2002 – Understanding your Surgery.

20 Tips to Help Prevent Medical Errors.  
[www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/20tips.htm](http://www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/20tips.htm)

Ways You Can Help Your Family Prevent Medical Errors!  
[www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/5tipseng/5tips.htm](http://www.ahcpr.gov/consumer/5tipseng/5tips.htm)



## C – Cubed Patient Safety Surgery Procedures

- **Correct Patient**
- **Correct Procedure**
- **Correct Site**

*Help us, help YOU have a safe surgical experience by following the enclosed procedures.*



We are a group of healthcare professionals in the state of Utah committed to providing high quality and safe care. We recognize that we can not do this alone. We therefore need your help in preventing wrong site surgeries in our institutions. The way that you can help us is by understanding and following the safety steps listed below.

## MARKING and EXPLANATIONS

**Step 1** – The provider who is doing your procedure should have 1) met with you, 2) explained to you what to expect from the surgery experience, and 3) marked your site prior to you getting any medication or anesthesia.

**Step 2** – Your site should be marked with a “YES”. If your child is having surgery or are having cosmetic surgery, a line or dot is acceptable. The site should be marked with a surgical skin marker and visible after you have been prepped and draped.



Remember – Front and Back!

Digit Specific!



## PATIENT VERIFICATION

**Step 3** – It is you or your legal guardian’s job to make sure that the site that is marked is the correct site. This means that a health professional will verify with you by asking the following C<sup>3</sup> questions:

C<sup>1</sup>) Who you are?

C<sup>2</sup>) What surgery you are having?

C<sup>3</sup>) On which part of the body are you having the surgery?

**If you are the wrong patient, OR this is the wrong procedure OR it is on the wrong site**



**STOP!! STOP!! STOP!!  
STOP!! STOP!! STOP!!**

If you have confusion **OR** you are unsure,

**STOP the process and ask for an explanation!**



The health professional will be comparing the information you give them with their records, any pictures, x-rays, or reports.



If you refuse to be marked, the health professional must document your refusal.

