

## Patient Safety Learning Advisory



**Patient Safety Event:** A patient experienced a retained surgical item (RSI).

### Why was this a Critical Incident?

According to “Never Events for Hospital Care in Canada- Safer Care for Patients”, unintended foreign objects left in a patient following a procedure are never events regardless of whether harm occurred or not, or whether the object was discovered in hospital or after discharge. (The Canadian Patient Safety Institute, 2015).

### What happened in the incident?

A patient underwent a scheduled procedure for a repeat bilateral inguinal hernia repair. After the patient arrived into the post-anesthesia recovery unit (PACU), it was noted that the Endoscopic Catch bag containing an excised surgical mesh remained in the patient. The patient was returned to the operating room (OR) where the bag and mesh were removed. The patient recovered without incident. In order to retrieve the item, the patient required another general anesthetic, was re-intubated, and the incision re-opened.

### What is the Health Care System learning?

Laparoscopic hernia repairs are a newer surgical procedure at the site. Typically repeat hernia repairs surgical techniques (“open” where a single long incision is made in the groin, or “laparoscopic” using small incisions with the aid of a camera) are performed opposite of what the original procedure was (ie. If the initial hernia repair was performed open, then the repeat is done laparoscopically, and vice versa). It was not common to use an Endo Catch bag for the repeat laparoscopic hernia repair.

The Endo catch bag is not on the Operating Room Surgical Count sheet.

There was no instrument attached to the string of the Endo Catch bag. Typically, when something is at risk of being retained inside the surgical field, an instrument is attached to it to not “lose” it in the surgical field.

### What are the recommendations?

**Add “Endo Catch bag” to the Operating Room Surgical Count (CLI.6611.PL.004.FORM.01) under “MISCELLANEOUS”.**

**Communicate to all OR staff in the region that the Endo Catch bag should have an instrument on the string.**

**Keywords:** Endo Catch bag

**Glossary:** Inguinal Hernia- tissue, such as part of the intestine, protrudes through a weak spot in the abdominal muscles.

**YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT TO US, SO IN THIS SUMMARY WE REMOVED ANY DETAILS THAT WOULD HELP OTHERS IDENTIFY WHO IT HAPPENED TO. IT'S IMPORTANT THAT WE CAN LEARN FROM SAFETY EVENTS AND MAKE CHANGES TO IMPROVE THE CARE WE PROVIDE.**



Unique Identification #