

POLICY NUMBER:	NS-1702.000
ISSUING AUTHORITY:	Surgical Care Team

ISSUE DATE:	July 17, 2007
REVIEW DATE:	

SUBJECT: SURGICAL SITE VERIFICATION

BOARD POLICY REFERENCE:

Executive Limitation (EL-2) Treatment of Clients

POLICY:

All surgical suites within Regional Health Authority - Central Manitoba Inc., will follow the Surgical Site Verification practice guidelines.

PROCEDURE:

Surgical Site Verification

1. The surgical nurse will verify the correct surgical procedure and site with the client.
2. The client will mark the site with a permanent marker or with indelible surgical skin marker by way of his/her initials directly above the surgical site
3. For eye surgery only, a sticker stating left or right will be placed on his/her forehead, above the affected eye, by the client. When the client is physically or mentally challenged, the Public Trustees' consent will replace this practice.
4. The surgical nurse will document on the pre-op check list the surgical site marking by the client.
5. The consent for surgical treatment will be reviewed to ensure the surgical site marking and the written consent are identical. The nursing assessment and physician's history note should reflect this information is correct.
6. The perioperative nurse will ensure the documentation process is complete, and that the consent, surgical site marking, and pre-op checklist are accurate.

7. Verbal confirmation with the client, the surgeon, and the surgical team is a necessary component prior to the surgical procedure beginning.
8. If the documentation of consent or surgical site verification is not complete, the surgery will be postponed until all processes are completed as identified in the above policy.

IMPORTANT POINTS TO CONSIDER:

- ◆ Surgical procedure and site verification processes reduce the risk of adverse events during the episode of care of the surgical patient.
- ◆ The health providers will ensure a consultative approach is taken to ensure surgical site verification for all surgeries within the Central Region Health Authority.
- ◆ The client and the nurse and/or surgeon are responsible for marking the surgical site. In cases where an alternate decision-maker is required then that individual will verify the surgical site.
- ◆ The perioperative nurse is responsible for ensuring the operative site is verified prior to the incision.

DOCUMENTATION:

1. Pre-operative checklist
2. Consent for Treatment and Procedures form NS-E00.020
3. Integrated Progress Notes as part of the facility documentation system

REFERENCES:

Joint commission Perspectives on Patient Safety: Special Report. Maintaining Safety & Reducing Risk. Vol.3 (1). January 2003.

Lewis,J., Thoresness,R., & Moore,L. (2003) Absolutes A VHA surgical site verification program. Surgical Services Management. Vol. 9 (1). Pp 35-40. Denver: AORN.

ONAC Recommended Standards, Guidelines and Position statements for Perioperative Registered Nursing Practice January 2003.

HIROC - 2004 Assessment.