Ensuring Correct Surgery and Invasive Procedures in VHA

Before surgery/procedure



Step 1: Consent Form

The consent form must include:

- patient's full name
- procedure site
- name of procedure
- brief description of procedure
- reason for procedure



Step 2: Mark Site

The operative site must be marked by a physician or other privileged provider who is a member of the operating team







Just before entering OR/ procedure room



Step 3: Patient Identification

Staff must ask the patient to state (NOT confirm):

- their full name
- full SSN or date of birth
- site for the procedure





Check responses against the marked site, ID band, consent form and other documents

Immediately prior to surgery/procedure



Step 4: Imaging Data

Two members of the team (the physician performing the procedure and another team member) must confirm the images are correct and properly labeled



Step 5: "Time Out"

Staff must conduct a Time Out prior to beginning the procedure with the patient present. The Time Out must be facilitated by a checklist that includes:

- correct patient identity
- procedure to be performed
- site of procedure
- valid consent form
- patient position
- site is marked and visible
- images confirmed
- implants available
- antibiotic prophylaxis
- deep vein thrombosis prophylaxis
- blood availability
- special equipment availability



For more information see the Veteran's Health Administration directive and your Patient Safety Manager