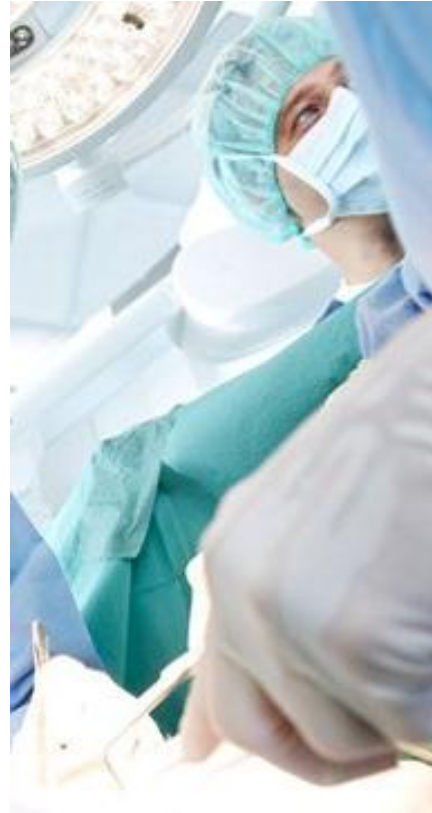


Patient's Communication Tool for Surgical Safety

***If you or your child will shortly undergo a surgical procedure,
communicate the following to your health-care provider:***
(you may wish to involve a family member or friend)

BEFORE SURGERY

1. Tell them about your previous surgeries, anaesthesia and medications, including herbal remedies
2. Tell them if you are pregnant or breast-feeding
3. Tell them about your health conditions (allergies, diabetes, breathing problems, high blood pressure, anxiety, etc.)
4. Ask about the expected length of your hospital stay
5. Ask for personal hygiene instructions
6. Ask them how your pain will be treated
7. Ask about fluid or food restrictions
8. Ask what you should avoid doing before surgery
9. Make sure that the correct site of your surgery is clearly marked on your body



Emergency and Essential
Surgical Care Programme
&
Patients for Patient Safety
Programme

Service Delivery and Safety
Department
World Health Organization
Geneva, Switzerland
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AFTER SURGERY

1. Tell them about any bleeding, difficulty breathing, pain, fever, dizziness, vomiting or unexpected reactions
2. Ask them how you can minimize infections
3. Ask them when you can eat food and drink fluids
4. Ask when you can resume normal activity (e.g. walking, bathing, lifting heavy objects, driving, sexual activity, etc.)
5. Ask what, if anything, you should avoid doing after surgery
6. Ask about the removal of stitches and plasters
7. Ask about any potential side effects of prescribed medications
8. Ask when you should come back for a check-up