



Accreditation Program: Office-Based Surgery

National Patient Safety Goals

Goal 1

Improve the accuracy of patient identification.

NPSG.01.01.01

Use at least two patient identifiers when providing care, treatment, or services.

Rationale for NPSG.01.01.01

Wrong-patient errors occur in virtually all stages of diagnosis and treatment. The intent for this goal is two-fold: first, to reliably identify the individual as the person for whom the service or treatment is intended; second, to match the service or treatment to that individual. Acceptable identifiers may be the individual's name, an assigned identification number, telephone number, or other person-specific identifier.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.01.01.01




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| M | 1. Use at least two patient identifiers when administering medications, blood, or blood components; when collecting blood samples and other specimens for clinical testing; and when providing treatments or procedures. The patient's room number or physical location is not used as an identifier. (See also NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1) | 3 C |
| | 2. Label containers used for blood and other specimens in the presence of the patient. (See also NPSG.01.03.01, EP 1) | 3 A |





KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **3** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

NPSG.01.03.01

Eliminate transfusion errors related to patient misidentification.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.01.03.01

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| 1. | Before initiating a blood or blood component transfusion:
- Match the blood or blood component to the order.
- Match the patient to the blood or blood component.
- Use a two-person verification process.
(See also NPSG.01.01.01, EPs 1 and 2)
Note: If two individuals are not available, an automated identification technology (for example, bar coding) may be used in place of one of the individuals. |  A |
| 2. | When using a two-person verification process, one individual conducting the identification verification is the qualified transfusionist who will administer the blood or blood component to the patient. |  A |
| 3. | When using a two-person verification process, the second individual conducting the identification verification is qualified to participate in the process, as determined by the practice. |  A |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C;  indicates situational decision rules apply;  indicates direct impact requirements apply;  indicates Measure of Success if needed;  indicates that documentation is required

Goal 3

Improve the safety of using medications.

NPSG.03.04.01

Label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings.






Note: Medication containers include syringes, medicine cups, and basins.





Rationale for NPSG.03.04.01






Medications or other solutions in unlabeled containers are unidentifiable. Errors, sometimes tragic, have resulted from medications and other solutions removed from their original containers and placed into unlabeled containers. This unsafe practice neglects basic principles of safe medication management, yet it is routine in many organizations.





The labeling of all medications, medication containers, and other solutions is a risk-reduction activity consistent with safe medication management. This practice addresses a recognized risk point in the administration of medications in perioperative and other procedural settings. Labels for medications and medication containers are also addressed at MM.05.01.09.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.03.04.01

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| 1. | In perioperative and other procedural settings both on and off the sterile field, label medications and solutions that are not immediately administered. This applies even if there is only one medication being used.
Note: An immediately administered medication is one that an authorized staff member prepares or obtains, takes directly to a patient, and administers to that patient without any break in the process. Refer to NPSG.03.04.01, EP 5, for information on timing of labeling. |  A |
| 2. | In perioperative and other procedural settings both on and off the sterile field, labeling occurs when any medication or solution is transferred from the original packaging to another container. |  A |
| 3. | In perioperative and other procedural settings both on and off the sterile field, medication or solution labels include the following:
- Medication name
- Strength
- Quantity
- Diluent and volume (if not apparent from the container)
- Preparation date
- Expiration date when not used within 24 hours
- Expiration time when expiration occurs in less than 24 hours
Note: The date and time are not necessary for short procedures, as defined by the practice. |  A |
|  4. | Verify all medication or solution labels both verbally and visually. Verification is done by two individuals qualified to participate in the procedure whenever the person preparing the medication or solution is not the person who will be administering it. |  C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C;  indicates situational decision rules apply;  indicates direct impact requirements apply;  indicates Measure of Success if needed;  indicates that documentation is required

5. Label each medication or solution as soon as it is prepared, unless it is immediately administered.
Note: An immediately administered medication is one that an authorized staff member prepares or obtains, takes directly to a patient, and administers to that patient without any break in the process.  **A**
6. Immediately discard any medication or solution found unlabeled.  **A**
7. Remove all labeled containers on the sterile field and discard their contents at the conclusion of the procedure.
Note: This does not apply to multiuse vials that are handled according to infection control practices.  **A**
-  8. All medications and solutions both on and off the sterile field and their labels are reviewed by entering and exiting staff responsible for the management of medications.  **C**

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C;  indicates situational decision rules apply;  indicates direct impact requirements apply;  indicates Measure of Success if needed;  indicates that documentation is required

Goal 7

Reduce the risk of health care–associated infections.


NPSG.07.01.01





Comply with either the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines or the current World Health Organization (WHO) hand hygiene guidelines.

Rationale for NPSG.07.01.01

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, each year, millions of people acquire an infection while receiving care, treatment, or services in a health care organization. Consequently, health care-associated infections (HAIs) are a patient safety issue affecting all types of health care organizations. One of the most important ways to address HAIs is by improving the hand hygiene of health care staff. Compliance with the World Health Organization (WHO) or Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) hand hygiene guidelines will reduce the transmission of infectious agents by staff to patients, thereby decreasing the incidence of HAIs. To ensure compliance with this National Patient Safety Goal, an organization should assess its compliance with the CDC and/or WHO guidelines through a comprehensive program that provides a hand hygiene policy, fosters a culture of hand hygiene, and monitors compliance and provides feedback.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.07.01.01




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| 1. | Implement a program that follows categories IA, IB, and IC of either the current Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) or the current World Health Organization (WHO) hand hygiene guidelines. (See also IC.01.04.01, EP 5) |  A |
| 2. | Set goals for improving compliance with hand hygiene guidelines. (See also IC.03.01.01, EP 3) | A |
| 3. | Improve compliance with hand hygiene guidelines based on established goals. | A |



KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C;  indicates situational decision rules apply;  indicates direct impact requirements apply;  indicates Measure of Success if needed;  indicates that documentation is required

NPSG.07.05.01

Implement evidence-based practices for preventing surgical site infections.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.07.05.01

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| M | 1. Educate staff and licensed independent practitioners involved in surgical procedures about surgical site infections and the importance of prevention. Education occurs upon hire, annually thereafter, and when involvement in surgical procedures is added to an individual's job responsibilities. | C |
| M | 2. Educate patients, and their families as needed, who are undergoing a surgical procedure about surgical site infection prevention. | C |
| M | 3. Implement policies and practices aimed at reducing the risk of surgical site infections. These policies and practices meet regulatory requirements and are aligned with evidence-based guidelines (for example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or professional organization guidelines). |  C |
| | 4. As part of the effort to reduce surgical site infections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Conduct periodic risk assessments for surgical site infections in a time frame determined by the practice. - Select surgical site infection measures using best practices or evidence-based guidelines. - Monitor compliance with best practices or evidence-based guidelines. - Evaluate the effectiveness of prevention efforts. Note: Surveillance may be targeted to certain procedures based on the practice's risk assessment. | A |
| | 5. Measure surgical site infection rates for the first 30 days following procedures that do not involve inserting implantable devices and for the first year following procedures involving implantable devices. The practice's measurement strategies follow evidence-based guidelines.
Note: Surveillance may be targeted to certain procedures based on the practice's risk assessment. | A |
| | 6. Provide process and outcome (for example, surgical site infection rate) measure results to key stakeholders. | A |
| M | 7. Administer antimicrobial agents for prophylaxis for a particular procedure or disease according to evidence-based best practices. |  C |
| | 8. When hair removal is necessary, use clippers or depilatories.
Note: Shaving is an inappropriate hair removal method. |  A |

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Goal 8

Accurately and completely reconcile medications across the continuum of care.

NPSG.08.01.01

A process exists for comparing the patient's current medications with those ordered for the patient while under the care of the practice.

Note: This standard is not in effect at this time.

Rationale for NPSG.08.01.01

Patients are at high risk for harm from adverse drug events when communication about medications is not clear. The chance for communication errors increases whenever individuals involved in a patient's care change. Communicating about the medication list, making sure it is accurate, and reconciling any discrepancies whenever new medications are ordered or current medications are adjusted are essential to reducing the risk of transition-related adverse drug events.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.08.01.01

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| M | 1. D At the time the patient enters the practice or is admitted, a complete list of the medications the patient is taking at home (including dose, route, and frequency) is created and documented. The patient and, as needed, the family are involved in creating this list.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 2. The medications ordered for the patient while under the care of the practice are compared to those on the list created at the time of entry to the practice or admission.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 3. Any discrepancies (that is, omissions, duplications, adjustments, deletions, additions) are reconciled and documented while the patient is under the care of the practice.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 4. When the patient's care is transferred within the practice, the current provider(s) informs the receiving provider(s) about the up-to-date reconciled medication list and documents the communication.
Note 1: Updating the status of a patient's medications is also an important component of all patient care hand-offs.
Note 2: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **3** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

NPSG.08.02.01

When a patient is referred to or transferred from one practice to another, the complete and reconciled list of medications is communicated to the next provider of service, and the communication is documented. Alternatively, when a patient leaves the practice's care to go directly to his or her home, the complete and reconciled list of medications is provided to the patient's known primary care provider, the original referring provider, or a known next provider of service.

Note 1: When the next provider of service is unknown or when no known formal relationship is planned with a next provider, giving the patient and, as needed, the family the list of reconciled medications is sufficient.

Note 2: This standard is not in effect at this time.

Rationale for NPSG.08.02.01

The accurate communication of a patient's reconciled medication list to the next provider of service reduces the risk of transition-related adverse drug events. The communication enables the next provider of service to receive thorough knowledge of the patient's medications and to safely order/prescribe other medications that may be needed. This communication is especially important at transitions in care when a patient is referred or transferred from one organization to another.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.08.02.01

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| M | 1. The patient's most current reconciled medication list is communicated to the next provider of service, either within or outside the practice. The communication between providers is documented.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 2. At the time of transfer, the transferring practice informs the next provider of service how to obtain clarification on the list of reconciled medications.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **2** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

NPSG.08.03.01

When a patient leaves the practice's care, a complete and reconciled list of the patient's medications is provided directly to the patient and, as needed, the family, and the list is explained to the patient and/or family.

Note: This standard is not in effect at this time.

Rationale for NPSG.08.03.01

The accurate communication of the patient's medication list to the patient and, as needed, the family, reduces the risk of transition-related adverse drug events. A thorough knowledge of the patient's medications is essential for the patient's primary care provider or next provider of service to manage the subsequent stages of care for the patient.

Elements of Performance for NPSG.08.03.01

- M** 1. **D** When the patient leaves the practice's care, the current list of reconciled medications is provided and explained to the patient and, as needed, the family. This interaction is documented. **C**

Note 1: Patients and families are reminded to discard old lists and to update any records with all medication providers or retail pharmacies.

Note 2: This element of performance is not in effect at this time.

NPSG.08.04.01

In settings where medications are used minimally, or prescribed for a short duration, modified medication reconciliation processes are performed.
 Note 1: This requirement does not apply to practices that do not administer medications. It may be important for health care organizations to know which types of medications their patients are taking because these medications could affect the care, treatment, or services provided.

Note 2: This standard is not in effect at this time.


Rationale for NPSG.08.04.01

A number of patient care settings exist in which medications are not used, are used minimally, or are prescribed for only a short duration. This includes areas such as the emergency department, urgent and emergent care, convenient care, office-based surgery, outpatient radiology, ambulatory care, and behavioral health care. In these settings, obtaining a list of the patient's original, known, and current medications that he or she is taking at home is still important; however, obtaining information on the dose, route, and frequency of use is not required.





Elements of Performance for NPSG.08.04.01

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| M | 1. | The practice obtains and documents an accurate list of the patient's current medications and known allergies in order to safely prescribe any setting-specific medications (for example, intravenous contrast media, local anesthesia, antibiotics) and to assess for potential allergic or adverse drug reactions.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 2. D | When only short-term medications (for example, a preprocedure medication or a short-term course of an antibiotic) will be prescribed and no changes are made to the patient's current medication list, the patient and, as needed, the family are provided with a list containing the short-term medication additions that the patient will continue after leaving the practice.
Note 1: This list of new short-term medications is not considered to be part of the original, known, and current medication list. When patients leave these settings, a list of the original, known, and current medications does not need to be provided, unless the patient is assessed to be confused or unable to comprehend adequately. In this case, the patient's family is provided both medication lists and the circumstances are documented.
Note 2: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 3. | In these settings, a complete, documented medication reconciliation process is used when: Any new long-term (chronic) medications are prescribed.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 4. | In these settings, a complete, documented medication reconciliation process is used when: There is a prescription change for any of the patient's current, known long-term medications.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |
| M | 5. | In these settings, a complete, documented medication reconciliation process is used when: The patient is required to be subsequently admitted to an organization from these settings for ongoing care.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time. | 3 C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **3** indicates situational decision rules apply; **3** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **M** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **D** indicates that documentation is required

-  6. When a complete, documented, medication reconciliation is required in any of these settings, the complete list of reconciled medications is provided to the patient, and their family as needed, and to the patient's known primary care provider or original referring provider or a known next provider of service.
Note: This element of performance is not in effect at this time.

 **C**

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Introduction to the Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, and Wrong Person Surgery™

The Universal Protocol applies to all surgical and nonsurgical invasive procedures. Evidence indicates that procedures that place the patient at the most risk include those that involve general anesthesia or deep sedation, although other procedures may also affect patient safety. Practices can enhance safety by correctly identifying the patient, the appropriate procedure, and the correct site of the procedure.

The Universal Protocol is based on the following principles:

- Wrong-person, wrong-site, and wrong-procedure surgery can and must be prevented.
- A robust approach using multiple, complementary strategies is necessary to achieve the goal of always conducting the correct procedure on the correct person, at the correct site.
- Active involvement and use of effective methods to improve communication among all members of the procedure team are important for success.
- To the extent possible, the patient and, as needed, the family are involved in the process.
- Consistent implementation of a standardized protocol is most effective in achieving safety.

The Universal Protocol is implemented most successfully in practices with a culture that promotes teamwork and where all individuals feel empowered to protect patient safety. A practice should consider its culture when designing processes to meet the Universal Protocol. In some practices, it may be necessary to be more prescriptive on certain elements of the Universal Protocol or to create processes that are not specifically addressed within these requirements.

Practices should identify the timing and location of the preprocedure verification and site marking based on what works best for their own unique circumstances. The frequency and scope of the preprocedure verification will depend on the type and complexity of the procedure. The three components of the Universal Protocol are not necessarily presented in chronological order (although the preprocedure verification and site marking precede the final verification in the time out). Preprocedure verification, site marking, and the time-out procedures should be as consistent as possible throughout the practice.

Note: Site marking is not required when the individual doing the procedure is continuously with the patient from the time of the decision to do the procedure through to the performance of the procedure.

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C; **▲** indicates situational decision rules apply; **▲₃** indicates direct impact requirements apply; **Ⓜ** indicates Measure of Success if needed; **Ⓧ** indicates that documentation is required

UP.01.01.01

Conduct a preprocedure verification process.

Rationale for UP.01.01.01

Practices should always make sure that any procedure is what the patient needs and is performed on the right person. The frequency and scope of the verification process will depend on the type and complexity of the procedure.

The preprocedure verification is an ongoing process of information gathering and confirmation. The purpose of the preprocedure verification process is to make sure that all relevant documents and related information or equipment are:

- Available prior to the start of the procedure
- Correctly identified, labeled, and matched to the patient's identifiers
- Reviewed and are consistent with the patient's expectations and with the team's understanding of the intended patient, procedure, and site

Preprocedure verification may occur at more than one time and place before the procedure. It is up to the practice to decide when this information is collected and by which team member, but it is best to do it when the patient can be involved. Possibilities include the following:

- When the procedure is scheduled
- At the time of preadmission testing and assessment
- At the time of admission or entry into the facility for a procedure
- Before the patient leaves the preprocedure area or enters the procedure room

Missing information or discrepancies are addressed before starting the procedure.

Elements of Performance for UP.01.01.01

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| 1. | Implement a preprocedure process to verify the correct procedure, for the correct patient, at the correct site.
Note: The patient is involved in the verification process when possible. | △ ₃ A |
| 2. | ⓓ Identify the items that must be available for the procedure and use a standardized list to verify their availability. At a minimum, these items include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant documentation (for example, history and physical, signed procedure consent form, nursing assessment, and preanesthesia assessment) - Labeled diagnostic and radiology test results (for example, radiology images and scans, or pathology and biopsy reports) that are properly displayed - Any required blood products, implants, devices, and/or special equipment for the procedure Note: The expectation of this element of performance is that the standardized list is available and is used consistently during the preprocedure verification. It is not necessary to document that the standardized list was used for each patient. | △ ₃ A |
| 3. | Match the items that are to be available in the procedure area to the patient. | A |

KEY: A indicates scoring category A; C indicates scoring category C; △ indicates situational decision rules apply; △₃ indicates direct impact requirements apply; Ⓜ indicates Measure of Success if needed; ⓓ indicates that documentation is required

Introduction to UP.01.02.01

Wrong site surgery should never happen. Yet it is an ongoing problem in health care that compromises patient safety. Marking the procedure site is one way to protect patients; patient safety is enhanced when a consistent marking process is used throughout the practice. Site marking is done to prevent errors when there is more than one possible location for a procedure. Examples include different limbs, fingers and toes, lesions, level of the spine, and organs. In cases where bilateral structures are removed (such as tonsils or ovaries) the site does not need to be marked.

Responsibility for marking the procedure site is a hotly debated topic. One position is that since the licensed independent practitioner is accountable for the procedure, he or she should mark the site. Another position is that other individuals should be able to mark the site in the interests of work flow and efficiency.

There is no evidence that patient safety is affected by the job function of the individual who marks the site. The incidence of wrong-site surgery is low enough that it is unlikely that valid data on this subject will ever be available. Furthermore, there is no clear consensus in the field on who should mark the site. Rather than remaining silent on the subject of site marking, The Joint Commission sought a solution that supports the purpose of the site mark. The mark is a communication tool about the patient for members of the team. Therefore, the individual who knows the most about the patient should mark the site. In most cases, that will be the person performing the procedure.

Recognizing the complexities of the work processes supporting invasive procedures, The Joint Commission believes that delegation of site marking to another individual is acceptable in limited situations as long as the individual is familiar with the patient and involved in the procedure. These include:





- Individuals who are permitted through a residency program to participate in the procedure
- A licensed individual who performs duties requiring collaborative or supervisory agreements with a licensed independent practitioner. These individuals include advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and physician assistants (PAs).





The licensed independent practitioner remains fully accountable for all aspects of the procedure even when site marking is delegated.

UP.01.02.01

Mark the procedure site.

Elements of Performance for UP.01.02.01

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|  | 1. | Identify those procedures that require marking of the incision or insertion site. At a minimum, sites are marked when there is more than one possible location for the procedure and when performing the procedure in a different location would negatively affect quality or safety.
Note: For spinal procedures, in addition to preoperative skin marking of the general spinal region, special intraoperative imaging techniques may be used for locating and marking the exact vertebral level. |  C |
|  | 2. | Mark the procedure site before the procedure is performed and, if possible, with the patient involved. |  C |

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- M** 3. The procedure site is marked by a licensed independent practitioner who is ultimately accountable for the procedure and will be present when the procedure is performed. In limited circumstances, the licensed independent practitioner may delegate site marking to an individual who is permitted by the organization to participate in the procedure and has the following qualifications:
- An individual in a medical residency program who is being supervised by the licensed independent practitioner performing the procedure; who is familiar with the patient; and who will be present when the procedure is performed
 - A licensed individual who performs duties requiring a collaborative agreement or supervisory agreement with the licensed independent practitioner performing the procedure (that is, an advanced practice registered nurse (A.P.R.N.) or physician assistant (P.A.)); who is familiar with the patient; and who will be present when the procedure is performed.
- 3** **C**
4. The method of marking the site and the type of mark is unambiguous and is used consistently throughout the practice.
Note: The mark is made at or near the procedure site and is sufficiently permanent to be visible after skin preparation and draping. Adhesive markers are not the sole means of marking the site.
- 3** **A**
5. **D** A written, alternative process is in place for patients who refuse site marking or when it is technically or anatomically impossible or impractical to mark the site (for example, mucosal surfaces or perineum).
Note: Examples of other situations that involve alternative processes include:
- Minimal access procedures treating a lateralized internal organ, whether percutaneous or through a natural orifice
 - Interventional procedure cases for which the catheter/instrument insertion site is not predetermined (for example, cardiac catheterization, pacemaker insertion)
 - Teeth
 - Premature infants, for whom the mark may cause a permanent tattoo
- 3** **A**

UP.01.03.01






A time-out is performed before the procedure.





Rationale for UP.01.03.01

The purpose of the time-out is to conduct a final assessment that the correct patient, site, and procedure are identified. This requirement focuses on those minimum features of the time-out. Some believe that it is important to conduct the time-out before anesthesia for several reasons, including involvement of the patient. A practice may conduct the time-out before anesthesia or may add another time-out at that time. During a time-out, activities are suspended to the extent possible so that team members can focus on active confirmation of the patient, site, and procedure.

A designated member of the team initiates the time-out and it includes active communication among all relevant members of the procedure team. The procedure is not started until all questions or concerns are resolved. The time-out is most effective when it is conducted consistently across the practice.

Elements of Performance for UP.01.03.01

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| 1. | Conduct a time-out immediately before starting the invasive procedure or making the incision. |  A |
| 2. | The time-out has the following characteristics:
- It is standardized, as defined by the practice.
- It is initiated by a designated member of the team.
- It involves the immediate members of the procedure team, including the individual performing the procedure, the anesthesia providers, the circulating nurse, the operating room technician, and other active participants who will be participating in the procedure from the beginning. | A |
| 3. | When two or more procedures are being performed on the same patient, and the person performing the procedure changes, perform a time-out before each procedure is initiated. |  A |
| 4. | During the time-out, the team members agree, at a minimum, on the following:
- Correct patient identity
- The correct site
- The procedure to be done |  A |
|  5. | Document the completion of the time-out.
Note: The practice determines the amount and type of documentation. |  C |

KEY: **A** indicates scoring category A; **C** indicates scoring category C;  indicates situational decision rules apply;  indicates direct impact requirements apply;  indicates Measure of Success if needed;  indicates that documentation is required