



Second Global Patient Safety Challenge **Safe Surgery Saves Lives**

*Draft Agenda for the
First Meeting of the Working Groups*

London, UK, 18-20 April 2007

The First Consultation Meeting for the Second Global Patient Challenge, Safe Surgery Saves Lives, concluded with a decision to create a tool in the form of a checklist, the Surgical Countdown, to implement basic interventions aimed at saving lives. The goal for this year will be to establish a core guidance group, create four technical working groups based on the themes of clean surgery, safe anesthesia, safe surgical teams, and measurement, and refine a final product for promotion and pilot testing. The final result of the challenge will be a set of safety standards aimed at saving lives that are simple to implement, widely applicable, and measurable in a systematic and quantifiable way.

The product will be a Surgical Countdown card in a simple checklist format containing a set of basic tasks to complete and safety checks to confirm prior to commencing with an operation. In addition to the completion of the specific steps outlined on the Countdown, the hope is that use of such a tool will improve communication between all members of the surgical team including anesthetists, nurses, surgical providers, and the patients and family members. Supporting each separate step will be a technical report outlining the evidence for the standard, its specific uses, a complete bibliography with respect to the references used and the data supporting its inclusion, implementation strategies, and implications (both positive and negative) for its inclusion.

There will also be space allocated on the Countdown for including one or more customized standards into the checklist. These may be surgical team-specific (based on input from the various team members, for example), specialty-specific (such as safety steps specific to orthopedic or cardiac procedures, for example), or situation-specific (such as specific resource availability in a resource-poor hospital, for example). Each country or region will be encouraged to modify the countdown by translating it into their own languages and adapting it to their own culture, situation, and environment. Such flexibility and adaptability should allow wide-spread use in diverse settings.

The goal will be broad use of the Countdown in all operating rooms and by all teams providing surgical care. A project of this magnitude has never been undertaken in surgery worldwide, and simplicity and general acceptability will be essential if this is to be adopted as a tool.

As a general objective, this first meeting of the working groups will establish the potential standards for inclusion on the checklist and create the working relationships that

will be vital over the next several months of the project as the technical papers are crafted and the evidence is evaluated. Each working group will be expected to complete and submit a written outline of the work they accomplished based on a template provided to them by Atul Gawande, the project lead. This template will require a draft wording of the likely standards, clear identification of the tasks each member is to accomplish, and deadlines for submitting written work.

Meeting Goals:

The goals of the Clean Surgery Technical Working Group meeting are:

1. To determine the potential standards that will decrease infectious complications and improve safety;
2. To evaluate the evidence for such standards;
3. To determine what the standards can address, and under what circumstances they can be implemented;
4. To determine what difference each potential standard would make;
5. To assign the tasks for preparing and writing the technical paper, and outline the evidence supporting each standard.

The goals of the Safe Anesthesia Technical Working Group meeting are:

1. To determine the potential standards of anesthesia monitoring that will improve safety;
2. To evaluate the evidence for standards;
3. To determine what the standards can address, and under what circumstances they can be implemented;
4. To determine what difference each potential standard would make;
5. To assign the tasks for preparing and writing the technical paper, and outline the evidence supporting each standard.

The goals of the Safe Surgical Teams Working Group are:

1. To determine how to improve the safety of surgery through teamwork and performance improvement;
2. To determine what elements might be incorporated into the Countdown to achieve this;
3. To evaluate the evidence for including such elements;
4. To determine what difference each element might make;
5. To assign the tasks for preparing and writing the technical paper, and outline the evidence supporting each standard.

The goals of the Measurement Working Group are:

1. To determine how to measure surgery and collect data on a global basis;
2. To determine what to measure;
3. To determine what the implications are of collecting vital statistics as they relate to surgery;
4. To determine how such data might be used;
5. To assign the tasks for preparing and writing the technical paper, and outline the evidence supporting proposals for vital statistics measurements.

The goals of the Core Group meeting are:

1. To define the final product, a Surgical Countdown checklist;
2. To review the Action Plan with particular focus on the strategies for identifying opinion leaders and gaining the support of leading surgical, anesthetic, and nursing colleges and societies;
3. To review of what each of the working groups is or will probably be focusing on, and what the subsequent standards will look like on the Countdown card;
4. To identify pilot sites and strategies for pilot testing the Countdown;
5. To identify strategies for implementation and measurement.

Safe Anesthesia Working Group Meeting:

Wednesday, 18th April

**Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Westminster,
London SW1A**

<i>9:00 – 9:15</i>	Introduction and reiteration of the goals of the Challenge, and a vision of the final product, a Surgical Countdown checklist
<i>9:15 – 9:30</i>	Scope of work and how they will provide content for the Countdown
<i>9:30 – 13:00</i>	Safe Anesthesia Technical Working Group Meeting (see individual agenda)
<i>13:00 – 14:00</i>	<i>Lunch</i>
<i>14:00 – 17:00</i>	Safe Anesthesia Technical Working Group Meeting (see individual agenda)

Thursday, 19th April

**Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Westminster,
London SW1A**

<i>9:00 – 12:00</i>	Safe Anesthesia Technical Working Group Meeting (see individual agenda)
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Clean Surgery, Safe Surgical Teams, Measurement Working Group
Meetings:

Thursday, 19th April

**General Medical Council, Regent's Place, 350 Euston Road, London
NW1 3JN**

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| <i>9:00 – 9:15</i> | Introduction and reiteration of the goals of the Challenge, and a vision of the final product, a Surgical Countdown checklist |
| <i>9:15 – 9:30</i> | Scope of work and how they will provide content for the Countdown |
| <i>9:30 – 13:00</i> | Clean Surgery/Safe Surgical Teams/Measurement Working Group Meetings (see individual agendas) |
| <i>13:00 – 14:00</i> | <i>Lunch</i> |
| <i>14:00 – 17:00</i> | Clean Surgery/Safe Surgical Teams/Measurement Working Group Meetings (see individual agendas) |

Friday, 20th April

**Department of Health, Richmond House, 79 Whitehall, Westminster,
London SW1A**

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| <i>9:00 – 11:00</i> | Clean Surgery/Safe Surgical Teams/Measurement Working Group Meetings (see individual agendas) |
| <i>11:00 – 11:15</i> | <i>Break</i> |
| <i>General Meeting (all participants):</i> | |
| <i>11:15 – 12:00</i> | <i>Debriefing – End of participation of Working Group members</i> |