



Preventing Wrong-Patient, Wrong-Site, Wrong-Procedure Events

POSITION STATEMENT

- AORN is dedicated to the promotion of safe, optimal outcomes for patients undergoing operative and other invasive procedures.
- AORN recognizes the need to implement standardized processes developed by safety, regulatory, or accrediting organizations or agencies for the prevention of wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure events.
- Multidisciplinary teams that include perioperative RNs, surgeons, anesthesia care providers, risk managers, and other health care professionals should collaboratively develop procedures and protocols to prevent wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure events.
- Multidisciplinary team members should implement and monitor standardized processes for the prevention of wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure events. Policies for individual health care organizations should clearly delineate the role and responsibility of the physician and other team members in marking and verifying the correct surgical site.
- Surgical team members should complete a preoperative checklist that includes, but is not limited to, preprocedure verification, site marking, and time-out procedures.

RATIONALE

Wrong-patient, wrong-site, wrong-procedure events can and must be prevented. Implementing evidence-based, risk-prevention strategies for the identification and verification of the correct patient, surgical site, and procedure will reduce the risk of error.¹⁻⁶

A comprehensive approach is needed in each health care organization to prevent wrong-patient, wrong-site, and wrong-procedure events. Perioperative RNs are key participants in multidisciplinary teams during the development of procedures and protocols for correct site surgery. As patient advocates, perioperative RNs communicate with all members of the surgical team and other nursing personnel to verify that all components of the standardized process are completed correctly, including but not limited to, preprocedure verification, site marking, and time-out procedures.

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