



News from the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety
For Release: February 9, 2009

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COUNCIL ON SURGICAL & PERIOPERATIVE SAFETY SUPPORTS IMPLEMENTATION OF SURGICAL SAFETY CHECKLIST
Offers Assistance in Coordinating Advocacy and Educational Efforts

CHICAGO: In an effort to help spearhead initiatives aimed at increasing surgical patient safety, the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety (CSPS) has pledged its support for the World Health Organization's (WHO) Safe Surgery Saves Lives campaign, "Surgical Safety Checklist Sprint." The coalition has offered its help with the effort—the goal of which is to have every US hospital test the Checklist by April 1, 2009.

In her letter to Atul Gawande, MD, FACS, who leads the Safe Surgery Saves Lives program, Lena Napolitano, MD, FACS, Chair of the CSPS Board of Directors, stated that "The CSPS can coordinate advocacy and educational efforts regarding the Surgical Safety Checklist with the goal of universal implementation. We are committed to implementation of all strategies that support safe surgery for all patients. Therefore, we enthusiastically offer to collaborate with the WHO on this important effort to improve surgical patient safety."

CSPS plans to contribute to this effort by using its multidisciplinary membership to get the Checklist into hospitals and put into use by operating room teams. The CSPS intends to work with its members to help them understand the rationale for the Safe Surgery Saves Lives effort and to disseminate the study data published in the January 14, 2009, issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, which demonstrated that implementation of the Checklist during major operations was associated with a significant reduction in mortality and complications. CSPS is one of more than 300 organizations endorsing the WHO campaign, a testament to the growing concern among the US surgical community about the need to reduce surgical errors and undertake stronger surgical patient safety initiatives.

Incorporated in August 2007, the Council on Surgical & Perioperative Safety is a unique coalition of seven professional organizations representing the entire spectrum of the surgical team: the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, the American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants, the American College of Surgeons, the American Society of Anesthesiologists, the American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses, the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, and the Association of Surgical Technologists. The Council and its member organizations have a combined total of more than 250,000 members and represent more than two million health care practitioners. The CSPS promotes excellence in patient safety in the surgical and perioperative environment and works to ensure that all patients receive the safest surgical care provided by an integrated team of dedicated professionals. For further information, visit <http://www.cspsteam.org>

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American Association of Nurse Anesthetists

American Association of Surgical Physician Assistants

American College of Surgeons

American Society of Anesthesiologists

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

Association of Surgical Technologists

The Council on Surgical

& Perioperative Safety

is a multidisciplinary

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surgical patients.