



HARVARD
School of Public Health



March 16, 2011

Dear South Carolina Hospitals,

Welcome to the Safe Surgery 2015: South Carolina initiative, and thank you for helping to achieve the goal of safer surgical care for every patient in the state through the use of the South Carolina Surgical Safety Checklist. Bringing the checklist into active use in the operating rooms of the state will require the work, dedication and focus of nurses, anesthesiologists, surgeons, technicians and administrators. It will take the efforts of multiple people at each hospital to bring better teamwork to our operation rooms. An essential part of this effort is monitoring our progress as we move towards our goal. We believe that monitoring is such an important part of improving care that we strongly encourage every hospital in the program to do it.

To help you, we have built and tested a set of tools in South Carolina that will give you feedback and insight into how the work is going in your hospital. As we work together, you will have access to expertly developed tools designed specifically to make using the checklist easier. These tools will help you reach the same levels of improvement in patient results that have been seen in recently published studies. We will provide training, instructions, and real-time support in using these tools, which include:

- A brief safety culture survey specific to the operating room – completed by physicians, nurses and technicians
- A survey of progress towards full implementation – completed by the individuals leading checklist implementation
- An operating room observation tool to assess performance of checklist elements – completed by circulating nurses
- An operating room observation tool to assess surgical teamwork and efficiency – completed by OR managers, supervisors or quality improvement/patient safety personnel

We are offering each hospital two options, and either is acceptable:

OPTION 1: If you prefer, information gathered from surveys and observations can be analyzed by your own hospital or ambulatory surgery center and used for self-monitoring to help guide the improvement process. This option will require you to bring your own data together and analyze it yourself.

OPTION 2: We are also offering you the opportunity to participate in a research study that will explore how different strategies of implementation effect checklist

use and teamwork in the operating room. The research focuses on understanding how hospitals bring change to their operating rooms and how those changes affect checklist use and surgical teamwork. It is a study of quality improvement, not of patients or operating room staff as individuals. The Institutional Review Board of the Harvard School of Public Health considered the study to be of minimal risk and exempted it from formal approval. Hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers that choose to participate in this research will conduct the same surveys and observations as those who use the tools for self-monitoring only. They will also receive the same training opportunities, but will send their data to the Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH) where we will analyze any information you submit and provide you with feedback.

BENEFITS OF RESEARCH PARTICIPATION: We want all hospitals to monitor their own progress during the Safe Surgery 2015: South Carolina initiative, and we realize that compiling and analyzing this information can be a burden. If you participate in the research, we will analyze the data for you in Boston. Hospitals that participate will receive reports that include more accurate and detailed data to improve the spread and use of the Checklist within their facility. In particular, if you participate in the research, the reports you will receive will allow you to benchmark your progress to that of other South Carolina hospitals. The reports will be provided at no cost to your organization. By participating in this research, you will contribute significant knowledge to improving surgical care worldwide.

We promise to protect your confidentiality and will not collect any information tied to individuals or patients. Further, the responses of individuals will never be reported, and the results from individual hospitals will never be identified in published or unpublished documents.

If you are interested in participating in the research, please complete the attached form and return it to us. We would also be happy to answer any additional questions that you may have. Please contact Lizzie Edmondson, at ledmondson@partners.org or 617-432-1503, with any questions about this initiative.

We encourage each and every hospital and ambulatory surgery center in South Carolina to participate in the research and look forward to supporting your efforts to put the checklist into use and improve the care of your patients.

Sincerely,



Sara Singer, PhD, MBA
Implementation
Research Director,
Safe Surgery 2015



Bill Berry, MD, MPH
Program Director,
Safe Surgery 2015



Rick Foster, MD
SVP Quality & Safety
So. Carolina Hospital
Assoc.



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We at the _____ would like to participate in the effort to monitor our progress toward implementation of the Surgical Safety Checklist. By doing so we are committing to using improvement tools provided in association with Safe Surgery 2015: South Carolina.

Please indicate the option you prefer:

- Option 1.** By choosing this option, information gathered from surveys and observations can be analyzed by your own hospital or ambulatory surgery center and used for self-monitoring to help guide the improvement process. This option will require you to bring your own data together and analyze it yourself. You will have access to all of the tools developed for this project and the accompanying training.
- Option 2.** By choosing this option, we commit to cooperating in the administration of improvement tools provided, sharing responses with the Harvard School of Health (HSPH) for analysis, and using the information they provide to guide our improvement process. We understand that HSPH will provide, at no cost: IRB assistance, if needed; training, instructions and support for administration of the instruments; confidential benchmarked reports; and acknowledgement for participating in the research.
- We'd like to discuss another option.
- We're interested in participation, and we would appreciate additional information.

Our contact person for this research study will be:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Sincerely,

Title: _____

Date: _____

RETURN COMPLETED FORMS TO:

Lizzie Edmondson
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