

Pause for the PAWS – Video Transcription

Voiceover: This is Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust Six Steps to Safer Surgery

Mr Khemani: Hi, I'm Sam Khemani, good to meet you.

Mr Khemani: The World Health Organisation Safer Surgery checklist was created in 2010 in response to some of the world wide complications which were found to occur in surgery.

Dr Locke: The safer surgical checklist focuses on the critical points in a patients' journey through theatre.

It formulises what we normally do but it makes sure that we go through the checklist as a team.

Mr Khemani: So we are doing the same thing every time for every patient.

Here at Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust we've introduced our own extra surgical pause immediately before starting the procedure.

Voiceover: For your information these six steps are:

Team Briefing

Mr Khemani: At the start of every session we have a team meeting. Every team member is present at this meeting. It's very important that everybody knows who the other people are in the operating theatre.

The Sign In

Man 1: The Sign In is the point at which we check the things that are critical to check before the patient goes off to sleep.

Voiceover: Time Out

Mr Khemani: Before we start the operation we get everybody around the operating table that includes the surgeon, the anaesthetist, the scrub nurse and any other members of the team that are going to be involved.

At this point I as the surgeon will talk through what I expect to be doing. I'll try and make it clear and obvious to everyone so that everybody has the same level of awareness of what the issues are.

Voiceover: The PAWS Check

Mr Khemani: Time for the surgical pause.

This is a safety check to ensure that nothing is missed between the time of the initial checks, draping and commencing the operation.

Man 2: It is the pause that we have introduced that ensures the checklist has been done properly and also ensures the safety of our patients.

Voiceover: The Sign Out

Mr Khemani: At the end of the operation is the sign out. This is the time for the team to confirm that they have done the procedure that they intended, they haven't changed the plan for some reason, and that all the specimens they have taken are correctly labelled. A nurse will also confirm that the swabs, needles and instruments are counted correctly.

Voiceover: The Debriefing

Mr Khemani: During the debriefing section we discuss issues that arose during the list and how they may be improved for future cases. Following the safer surgery process thoroughly with every patient will make sure we've taken every precaution possible before the operation starts.

Remember to pause. No PAWS on the patient until you've confirmed the correct site and procedure.