

Ministry of Health
and Long-Term Care

Ministère de la Santé
et Soins de longue durée



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Dear Colleagues:

NEW INFORMATION

In keeping with the requirement for hospitals to report Surgical Safety Checklist Compliance on July 30, 2010, attached are

- the data elements, case definition, and reporting requirements for the surgical safety checklist compliance rate,
- information updating you on the development of an implementation toolkit,
- information regarding educational sessions for implementing the surgical safety checklist in your facility.

It has been a very successful year in the patient safety indicator reporting program and we would like to thank all hospital CEOs and Board Chairs for their support for the government's public safety agenda. Indicator data have been reported to the ministry in a timely fashion and hospitals must be commended for their commitment to data collection and reporting. It is our intention to have this information used to help inform and improve infection prevention and control programs in hospitals across the province. Evidence of this has been observed with the noticeable decline in *Clostridium difficile* infection rates since the beginning of reporting in September 2008. We are hopeful that the new reporting requirements will be equally well received and we are pleased to continue to work with you and the Ontario Hospital Association (OHA) on this important initiative.

The attached letter from John McKinley, Assistant Deputy Minister, Health System Information Management and Investment Division (HSIMI), contains the details related to reporting surgical safety checklist compliance rates. Reporting will be focused on all surgical procedures performed in Ontario hospitals, on a bi-annual basis.

As such, for the first report, hospitals are requested to report these data for the period April 01 to June 30, 2010 by July 15, 2010. Reporting will be through the Surgical Efficiencies Target Program (SETp) for those hospitals participating in SETp or on the WERS system for those hospitals that do not participate in SETp. The ministry will post the data on July 30, 2010. Hospitals are asked to post on the same day. As with all other reporting requirements,

the confidential listing of data by hospital will be forwarded to the hospitals for vetting prior to posting. Questions or further clarification related to reporting details can be referred to PatientSafety.MOH@ontario.ca.

The OHA in partnership with the ministry is currently developing a Surgical Safety Checklist Implementation Toolkit. The toolkit's development has been in consultation with experts and has used much of the current and leading edge evidence and best-practices for successful implementation of a surgical safety checklist. Hospital CEOs, Chairs and surgical teams will be recommended to consult this toolkit for further information once the final version is available.

The OHA along with the ministry's Surgical Efficiencies Target Program will be coordinating educational sessions in the new year on the implementation of the surgical safety checklist and reporting. The OHA will work with all hospitals on media communications.

Again thank you for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me directly at michael.baker@uhn.on.ca if you have any questions, wish to discuss these issues further or have suggestions for the future of the Patient Safety Initiative.

Sincerely,

Michael Baker M.D.
Executive Lead – Patient Safety

cc: Hon. Deb Matthews, MPP
Minister of Health and Long-Term Care

Ron Sapsford
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care