

Patient Safety Learning Advisory

Patient Safety Event:

Wrong Medical Device Inserted During Procedure

Why was this a Critical Incident?

During a routine surgical procedure, the wrong medical device was inserted, so a second procedure was needed to remove it and put in the correct one.

What happened in the incident?

The right-sized device was not available during the procedure, so a similar one for a different procedure was used instead

What is the Health Care System learning?

A double-check process was not in place to make sure that the correct device and supplies were used during surgery.

Similar devices for different procedures are stored together without clear labels on the shelves.

Not having specific training and delegation of tasks for choosing and preparing devices led to choosing the wrong one.

A surgical safety checklist that is used to discuss important details about each surgical case was not used.

Work is being done to look at how similar surgeries are done in other places to see if the process can be improved.

What are the recommendations?

Make sure the surgical safety checklists are used and double-check the supplies before each procedure.

Create a system to make devices easier to find and store, with clear labels.

Give all staff standard training on their roles and responsibilities during procedures, including how to choose and prepare devices.

Keywords: surgery, surgical procedure, wrong device, medical device, surgical safety checklist, equipment storage, training, delegation

Glossary:

Surgical Safety Checklist - The surgical safety checklist is designed to assist surgical teams to reduce the number of preventable surgical complications by communicating important information at three critical stages, or phases, during the surgical procedure.

Delegation - when a non-regulated professional is to complete a task that is otherwise performed by a regulated professional. The regulated professional (i.e. nurse, doctor, etc.) is typically responsible for making sure that the staff performing the task has the appropriate training and skills, and regularly re-assessing the client and the plan of care.

Medical Device - a wide range of health or medical instruments used in the treatment, diagnosis or prevention of disease or abnormal physical condition.

Your privacy is important to us, so in this summary we have removed any details which would help identify the subject of this event. It's important that we can learn from safety events and make changes to improve the care we provide.

