



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate release

Osler adopts Surgical Safety Checklist to increase patient safety and reduce complications during operations

Brampton, Ontario (July 30, 2010): As of July 30th, 2010 all hospitals in Ontario with fully equipped operating rooms are required to publicly report their compliance with the Surgical Safety Checklist (SSC).

A study by the World Health Organization showed that using a standardized checklist, similar to the ones used by airline pilots just before takeoff, significantly reduces mortality and surgical complications. Ontario has adopted a checklist developed by the Canadian Patient Safety Institute. The SSC is a simple yet effective tool that covers the most common tasks and procedures carried out in operating rooms. It has been proven to enhance teamwork and communication and gives patients a voice in their own care.

Patient safety is the highest priority at Osler, and William Osler Health System was one of the first hospitals to fully implement the SSC. Dr. Rajiv Gupta, Site Chief of Surgery for Osler's Etobicoke General Hospital, worked with the Ontario Hospital Association to develop an implementation toolkit and provided webinars and guidance to a number of hospitals in how to incorporate the SSC into their surgical practices.

Both the Etobicoke General and Brampton Civic hospitals have been extremely diligent in complying with the SSC. The compliance rates are as follows:

Osler	April – 96.2%	May – 98.5%	June – 99.4%
BCH:	April – 94.7%	May – 98.0%	June – 99.3%
EGH:	April – 98.4%	May – 99.3%	June – 99.5%

Liz Buller, Senior Vice President Patient Services at Osler, said, “These excellent results clearly show the staff and physicians’ commitment to ensuring the best possible surgical experience for patients. We are pleased that compliance with the SSC is now being made public. Hospitals can use these types of reporting indicators as a way to increase patient safety performance.”

For more information on this new reporting mechanism, visit Osler’s web site at www.williamoslerhs.ca and click on ‘Public Reporting’.

ABOUT WILLIAM OSLER HEALTH SYSTEM

William Osler Health System is home to Canada's premier community hospitals – Brampton Civic, Etobicoke General and Peel Memorial (under redevelopment) – and serves nearly one million residents of the communities of Brampton, Etobicoke, Malton, Caledon and surrounding areas. Our vision is *to design health systems that serve the global community... driven by diversity*. For more information, please visit www.williamoslerhs.ca

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