

Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Pre-surgical Site Preparation and Marking Protocol

This SOP details the **pre-surgical site preparation and marking protocol**, encompassing patient identification verification, surgical site cleansing techniques, appropriate use of antiseptic agents, hair removal guidelines, and standardized marking procedures to accurately identify the surgical site. The objective is to minimize surgical site infections, prevent wrong-site surgeries, and enhance overall patient safety by ensuring clear and consistent site identification prior to surgery.

1. Purpose

To outline the standardized procedures for the preparation and marking of surgical sites to minimize infection risk and prevent wrong-site surgeries.

2. Scope

This SOP applies to all surgical procedures performed within the facility, by all healthcare staff involved in preoperative patient care.

3. Responsibilities

- **Surgeons:** Final site confirmation and marking
- **Nursing staff:** Patient identification, skin preparation, patient education
- **Anesthesia staff:** Verification of site and patient identity

4. Procedure

4.1 Patient Identification Verification

1. Confirm patient identity using at least two identifiers (e.g., full name and date of birth).
2. Verify the procedure, surgical site, and side against the patient's medical record and consent form, preferably with the patient's involvement.
3. Document all verifications in the patient's chart.

4.2 Pre-surgical Site Cleansing

1. Wash hands and don clean gloves before commencing site preparation.
2. Clean the surgical area with an approved antiseptic solution (e.g., chlorhexidine gluconate or povidone-iodine), using concentric circles from the incision site outward.
3. Allow the antiseptic to dry naturally.

4.3 Use of Antiseptic Agents

- Use antiseptic agents recommended by hospital infection control protocols.
- Check for patient allergies before application.

4.4 Hair Removal Guidelines

1. Remove hair only if it will interfere with the procedure or dressing.
2. If required, use electric clippers, not razors, immediately before surgery.
3. Never use depilatory agents unless specifically indicated.

4.5 Surgical Site Marking Procedure

1. The operating surgeon shall mark the surgical site with an indelible marker.
2. Use standardized marks (e.g., surgeon's initials or "YES") at or near the incision site.
3. Never mark non-operative sites or ambiguous locations.
4. Have the patient participate in site confirmation when possible.
5. Document completion of site marking in the medical record.

5. Documentation

- Record confirmation of patient identity, procedure, and site/side in the preoperative checklist.

- Note details of site preparation and marking.

6. References

- World Health Organization Surgical Safety Checklist
- Facility Infection Control Protocols
- The Joint Commission Universal Protocol

7. Revision History

Version	Date	Summary of Changes	Approved by
1.0	2024-06-30	Initial SOP release	Surgical Committee