

Safe Site Recommendations for Anesthesia

May 20, 2011

Why Safe Site in Anesthesia?

- In the most recent Minnesota Adverse Healthcare Event Report (January, 2011), 29% of reported wrong site events occurred during local anesthesia injections and regional/peripheral blocks. These were procedures performed by anesthesiologists, CRNAs, surgeons and radiologists.
- Review of these events indicate that these events occurred in anesthesia injections and blocks performed outside of the operating room and also during injections and blocks performed in the operating room just prior to a surgical procedure.
- In the vast majority of these cases, site marking and a Time Out for the anesthesia block/injection were not completed or were not completed effectively.



Site Marking Recommendations:

- Person performing the anesthesia block marks the procedure site. Ideally, site marking should occur before the patient is sedated so that the patient can participate in the verification process.
 - *Recommend marking the site with an (A) to distinguish from surgical procedure mark.*
- For blocks conducted just prior to a related surgical procedure, the anesthesia block should be marked, as indicated above, and a second, separate site marking should be completed by the person performing the surgical procedure.
- For local anesthesia injections performed by a surgeon in the OR just prior to a related surgical procedure, a separate site marking does not need to occur.

Time Out Recommendations for Anesthesia Care Providers:

Anesthesia Time Out	An Anesthesia Time Out is conducted just prior to the anesthesia block.	
Role	Action	Script
ACP performing anesthesia block	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient in position for procedure • Call for the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Let’s do the Anesthesia Time Out”
All involved in the anesthesia Time Out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop what you are doing • Turn off all music • Engage in the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence, Still.
2nd healthcare provider <i>*Minimally, two people must be involved in a Time Out.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audibly read from the informed consent • <i>If anesthesia procedure prior to surgical procedure, and there is not a separate anesthesia consent, read from the surgical informed consent</i> 	Read out loud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient’s name • Anesthesia procedure (<i>if prior to surgical procedure and there is not a separate anesthesia consent, read surgical procedure to be performed</i>) • Include laterality /level/site
2nd healthcare provider	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visualize the site mark and state location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State the location of the site mark.
ACP performing procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively look at site — site marked and visible after draping. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State anesthesia procedure verbally from memory • Include: side/level/site. • <i>If anesthesia procedure prior to surgical procedure, state “I am doing a {XX anesthesia procedure and site/level/site} for a {state surgical procedure and site/level/site}.</i>

Time-Out Recommendations (surgeon performing local anesthesia injection prior to the surgical procedure):

Surgeon Local Anesthesia Time Out	If not in Continuous Attendance: If the surgeon will not be in continuous attendance with the patient after performing the injection, e.g. the surgeon injects the site and leaves the area while the injection takes effect, two Time Outs need to occur – 1) a Local Anesthesia Time Out just prior to the injection; and 2) a Surgical Time Out just prior to the surgical procedure.	
Role	Action	Script
Surgeon performing local anesthesia injection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient in position for procedure • Call for the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Let’s do the Time Out”
Surgeon and Circulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop what you are doing • Turn off all music • Engage in the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence, Still.
Circulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audibly read the surgical procedure from the informed consent. 	Read out loud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient’s name • Procedure with laterality /level/site
Circulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visualize the surgical site mark and state location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State the location of the site mark.
Surgeon performing procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Actively look at site mark 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State injection and procedure verbally from memory. • Include: side/level/site, <i>i.e. “I am doing a {local anesthesia injection at XX site/level/site} for a {state surgical procedure and site/level/site}”.</i>
Full Surgical Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following prepping and draping for surgical procedure, conduct full Surgical Time Out. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete all steps of the Surgical Time Out.

Continuous attendance: If the surgeon is in continuous attendance with the patient from the time the local anesthesia injection is given and the surgical procedure begins, a separate Time Out for the injection does not need to be performed, **however**, the Time Out for the injection and procedure are completed together, **just prior to** the anesthesia injection.

Time-Out Recommendations (full surgical team)

Full Time Out	A full surgical team Time Out is conducted just prior to incision (or just prior to anesthesia injection if surgeon is in continuous attendance - see above).	
Role	Action	Script
Person performing the procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient in position for procedure • Call for the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Let’s do the Time Out”
All	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop what you are doing • Turn off all music • Engage in the Time Out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silence, Still.
Circulator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audibly read the surgical procedure from the informed consent. 	Read out loud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient’s name • Procedure • Laterality /level/site
ACP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Audibly read patient name and procedure from documentation. 	Read out loud: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient’s name • Procedure with laterality/level/site
Scrub person	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locate site mark and verbally confirm where it is located. 	State: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Procedure they have set up for • The location of the site mark
Person performing the procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • States procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State procedure verbally from memory • Include side/level/site