



3rd Annual Quality & Patient Safety Conference Improving the Healthcare Journey for Patients & Staff



TITLE

Introduction of a safety checklist for patients undergoing changes of position under anaesthesia

SUBMITTED BY

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ABSTRACT

INTRODUCTION

Optimal patient positioning to facilitate surgical access frequently requires a change of position from the usual starting supine position. Changes of position under anaesthesia pose many potential risks to patients including, but not limited to, physical injury due to extrinsic force, interruption of crucial monitoring, airway compromise, haemodynamic instability, impairment of ventilation and dislodgement of intravascular lines with potential interruption of invasive monitoring, fluid, and drug infusions. A pause with a safety checklist before and after position changes may be an effective tool in reducing risk and improving patient safety.

METHODOLOGY

Pre- and post- change of patient position safety checklist devised and implemented in Neurosurgical theatres.

AIM

Reduce risk and improve patient safety during changes of position under anaesthesia and provide a practical tool to Anaesthesia trainees to ensure safe and confident clinical practice.

CHANGE IMPLEMENTED

After observation of existing team practices during changes of patient position under anaesthesia, we identified key potential patient risks and key times of greatest risk. We then devised a systematic patient safety checklist and identified 2 time points for implementation.

MEASUREMENT

Survey of users following checklist rollout and implementation will assess value of checklist as a practical safety tool and impact on reduction of risk.

RESULTS

- We devised a user-friendly checklist which facilitates a rapid and seamless transition through checks of basic safety parameters in 5 key domains Hemodynamics, Ventilation, Airway, Patient pressure points / neurovascular points and Equipment function and position.
- Separate pre- and post-position change checklists were devised with variation in emphasis appropriate to the different risks at these 2 time points.
- Staff education delivered to initial pilot group prior to roll-out. Laminated checklists disseminated and displayed in prominent locations at key pilot sites.

VALUE

Perioperative positioning-related patient injury is uncommon but can have devastating consequences. Changes of patient position under anaesthesia can pose major risks to patients and can be challenging and stressful for staff. This checklist provides a practical tool to guide staff and enhance their ability to reduce risk and improve patient safety.

SUSTAINMENT

Plan to establish as a standard of care across all anaesthesia sites at Beaumont Hospital. Documentation of completed checklist will be filed with Anaesthesia record in patients' medical notes. Electronic copy can be easily created if future e-records implemented.