



Immediate Release

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Parkersburg Hospitals promote "National Time Out Day" on June 17

Parkersburg, WV – Before each surgical procedure at St. Joseph's Hospital and Camden-Clark Memorial Hospital, one will find the surgical teams pausing before starting the procedure. The team in the OR suite will prep the patient, and prior to incision, they take what is called a "time out" to verify that the correct patient is having the correct procedure on the current surgical site and side. The "time out" allows the surgical team to communicate as a group and confirm key information about the procedure and the patient to prevent wrong-site surgical errors from occurring.

"This initiative was launched in 2004 by the Joint Commission as a process to confirm the correct patient information before the surgeon starts the procedure," shared Debbie Thomas, Director of Surgery at Camden-Clark. "The 'time out' is the final step before a surgical procedure to ensure that the correct procedure is being performed on the correct patient."

The Association for Perioperative Registered Nurses (AORN) began sponsoring a National Time Out Day to raise awareness of the importance of pausing before all invasive surgical procedures. "National Time Out Day is significant because it represents collaboration between nurses, techs and physicians to reduce errors and improve care," said Charlotte Arras, Director of Perioperative Services at St. Joseph's. "Both hospitals are joining together to promote National Time Out Day to remind the community about our shared focus on patient safety and quality of care in the Mid-Ohio Valley."

Tips for Patients Having Surgery*:

- Each person you meet should ask you your name and ask for another identifying piece of information, such as your date of birth, since different people can have the same name.
- All of your healthcare providers should check your identification bracelet.
- All of your healthcare providers should ask what kind of surgery you are having and ask you about the exact location, if the operation can be done at more than one site. (For example: which eye, arm or leg)

- When they ask the questions, they know the answers to expect based on the operating schedule, the consent form you signed and the surgeon's record of your examination.
- They are asking you these questions to make sure that the information you provide matches the information written on their documents. If it does not, they know that they need to double check to make sure that everyone, especially you, is in agreement before you are taken into the operating room.
- If you are ever concerned that one of your healthcare providers does not seem to know exactly what is being done to you, please speak up!
- So, if you are facing surgery and you get upset that everyone is asking you the same questions prior to the surgery, please remember, it is a safety check.

* Source: Patient Safety Authority

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