Safety and communication in the operating room: a safety questionnaire after the implementation of a blood-borne pathogen exposure checkpoint in the surgical safety checklist preprocedure time-out.

Although the literature surrounding the efficacy of surgical safety checklists has been controversial at times, such checklists are generally viewed as improving patient safety if implemented effectively. Investigators examined the effectiveness of implementing a blood-borne pathogen exposure checkpoint within the surgical safety checklist at a single institution. Survey data obtained from operating room personnel revealed that the intervention was associated with perceptions of improved safety and operating room communication. They also found a decrease in reported blood-borne pathogen exposure incidents after implementation of the checkpoint as compared to before.