



World Health
Organization

Patient Safety

A World Alliance for Safer Health Care

A Challenge for Nurses worldwide: WHO Safe Surgery Saves Lives

Dear Colleague,

Did you know that nurses worldwide have played a critical role in promoting a simple checklist that reduces complications and mortality associated with a variety of surgical procedures by more than **30 percent**? Since the launch of the *World Health Organization's Surgical Safety Checklist* in 2008, nurses have brought the checklist to over 1,800 facilities representing 86 countries around the globe with more than 15 countries mobilizing their efforts to implement the checklist at a national level. The rapid spread of the checklist can be attributed to the efforts of nurses who were willing to bring the checklist to their operating rooms, hospitals, and professional networks.

We are now inviting **you** to change the face of surgery and join the ranks of these champions by bringing the checklist to your hospital. Specifically, we are asking you to identify one enthusiastic surgical team to trial the checklist for one day in one operating theatre by **December 15, 2009** and to give us feedback on how this tool worked for you and your colleagues by registering on our [website](#).

To trial the checklist or to learn more about this project simply register your hospital online by clicking [here](#). We have a host of related materials available for download at our websites: www.who.int/safesurgery and www.safesurg.org. If you have already started using the checklist, we would love to hear about your experiences using this tool. You can write to us at: safesurgery@hsph.harvard.edu. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions about this programme.

We look forward to collaborating with you on this exciting effort to improve surgical safety globally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Atul Gawande'.

Atul Gawande, M.D., M.P.H.
WHO Safe Surgery Saves Lives Programme Lead

The Safe Surgery Saves Lives Team
WHO Patient Safety
Harvard School of Public Health



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