

### **College Policy position on the '5 Steps to Safer Surgery'**

Safety is of paramount importance in Surgery. Effective team working is an essential component in maximising safety and avoiding adverse incidents – a disaster for both patient and clinician. The College strongly endorses The National Patient Safety Agency's 'Five steps to safer surgery' programme, which recommends team briefing and debriefing in conjunction with the WHO safer surgery checklist. This enables effective team working, anticipation of safety issues and learning through reflection on performance. The College encourages these principles throughout a surgeons' practice where ever it is delivered.. All surgeons should therefore lead on the implementation of the 'Five Steps' within their teams in order to ensure safety, improve efficiency of the operating list, enrich the trainee experience, and build team morale.

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