

# safety in the operating room

*You play an important role*

We are committed to making surgery safe for every patient, every time. This means making sure that the right surgery is done at the right place on the right person. If you are having surgery, here are some things you can do to help us make sure your surgery is done safely.

Many people make up your surgery team. You are a member of this team as well. It is very important that you speak up if something doesn't seem right.

| <i>Timing of step</i> |   | <i>What we do</i>  | <i>What you can do</i>  |
|-----------------------|---|--|---|
| Before your surgery   | 1 | Informed consent form — this is the document you sign which says the name of the procedure and the risks related to it.  | Read the form carefully. Make sure the type of surgery listed is correct.                                   |
|                       | 2 | Double checking — We may ask you the same questions many times. We may ask your name, the kind of surgery you're having and the place on your body where the surgery will be done.   | Answer the questions every time. This is an important safety step. Speak up if anything doesn't seem right. |
|                       | 3 | Marking the surgical site — In Minnesota, surgeons sign their initials with a marker on the surgical site (the place on your body where the surgery will be done). This is an important step for any surgery where there is a risk of operating on the wrong part of the body. | Make sure that the correct site is marked.  |
| In the operating room | 4 | "Time out" — In the operating room, before beginning the surgery, the entire surgery team pauses. The team reviews the patient's name, procedure, surgical site and surgeon's name. You might not be awake when this step happens.   | If you are awake, listen carefully to what is said. Speak up if anything doesn't seem right.                |