



ASPAN

American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses

ASPAN Patient Information:

Pre-verification Checklist

What is a pre-verification checklist?

It is a checklist that is required to be asked and looked over as a part of your safe care before going for surgery.

What will I expect?

Your nurse in the preoperative holding or prep area on the day of surgery will make sure that you are completely ready with all the correct information before surgery. Below are some examples:

- *Patient Identification:*
 - You will be asked to state two ways to identify yourself such as your name and birthday. The nurse will check that your identification bracelet matches what you say and your records. It is very important that you always give the correct information about yourself when you are asked.
- *Surgical Consent:*
 - Your surgeon will have informed you of your procedure prior to surgery. You will be asked to sign your name on a written surgical consent; a nurse or staff member will be there to serve as a witness. At this time, you are encouraged to ask questions about your surgery. Please make sure you are well informed by the surgeon.
- *History and Physical Examination:*
 - Your surgeon will document your medical history and physical examination. Most often this is done before the day of surgery, but may be done the day of surgery, too. If there have been any changes to your health or history after your exam and before surgery, it is very important that you inform your doctor on the day of surgery. For example: the flu, any injury that your physician may not know or a blood transfusion.
- *Blood Specimen (sample):*
 - When the nurse/lab worker takes a sample of your blood, he or she will check your patient identification bracelet and compare it to the blood label to make the sure they match.
- *X-ray:*
 - If you bring an x-ray film with you, the nurse will check if the label matches correctly with your identification.
- *Anesthesia Interview:*
 - Your anesthesiologist (the doctor who gives you medicine for surgery) will interview you before your surgery. This is an important time for you to ask questions about your anesthesia, what to expect, if you have had any type of reaction before with surgery, any family member that may have had a problem with surgery and how your pain will be managed.
- *Nurse Interview:*
 - Preoperative nurse: The nurse will check on you and ask you questions. Some of the questions you may have been asked before, but it is important to ask for your safe care.

- List of medications—bring a list of your medications you are taking, how much you take, and how often you take them. The medication list will include prescribed and over the counter medications, vitamins, herbals and any recreational drugs. The nurse will verify all of these medications on the day of surgery.
- Allergies—the nurse will verify medication, food, environmental and latex allergies.
- Devices—you need to let the nurse know if you have any devices such as an insulin pump, pain pump, pacemaker, automatic internal cardiac defibrillator (AICD) or C-PAP machine.
- *Surgery nurse*: The nurse who will be with you during surgery. He or she will verify the following before taking you into the operating room:
 - Your name and birth date
 - Allergies
 - The name of your surgeon
 - What type of surgery you are having
 - Where you are having your surgery