

Innovation in surgical counting process to prevent retained surgical item

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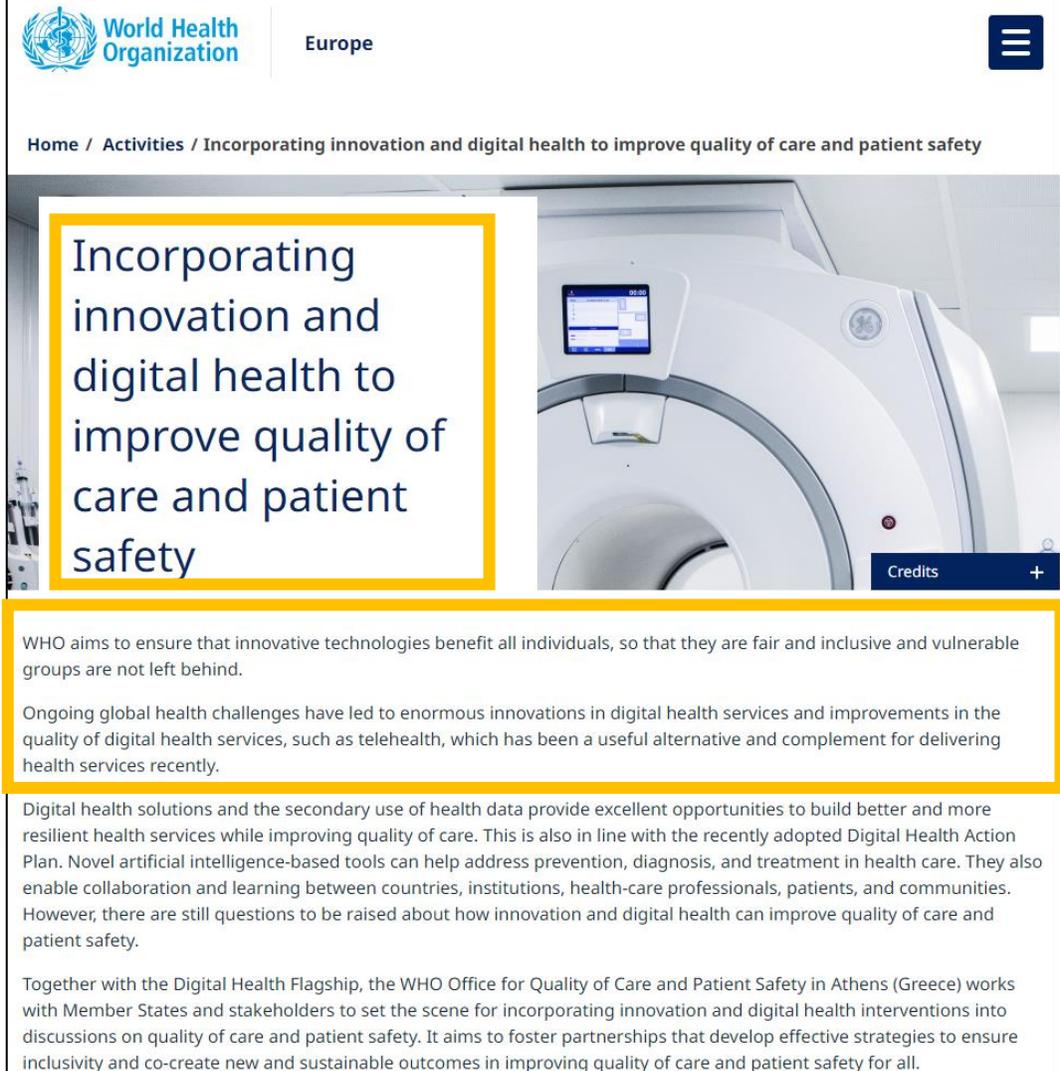
Information Technology and Health Informatic, Hospital Authority

International forum on Quality and Safety in Healthcare, Hong Kong.

27 Aug 2024

Highlights of the presentation

- Workflow design thinking in surgical counting re-engineer with information technology
- Surgical teams satisfied and well adopted to the new designed workflow
- Create significant impact to quality of care and patient safety



The screenshot shows a webpage from the World Health Organization (WHO) Europe region. The page title is "Incorporating innovation and digital health to improve quality of care and patient safety". The page content includes a paragraph stating that WHO aims to ensure that innovative technologies benefit all individuals, so that they are fair and inclusive and vulnerable groups are not left behind. It also mentions that ongoing global health challenges have led to enormous innovations in digital health services and improvements in the quality of digital health services, such as telehealth, which has been a useful alternative and complement for delivering health services recently. The page further discusses digital health solutions and the secondary use of health data, providing excellent opportunities to build better and more resilient health services while improving quality of care. It also mentions that digital health solutions are in line with the recently adopted Digital Health Action Plan. Novel artificial intelligence-based tools can help address prevention, diagnosis, and treatment in health care. They also enable collaboration and learning between countries, institutions, health-care professionals, patients, and communities. However, there are still questions to be raised about how innovation and digital health can improve quality of care and patient safety. The page concludes by stating that together with the Digital Health Flagship, the WHO Office for Quality of Care and Patient Safety in Athens (Greece) works with Member States and stakeholders to set the scene for incorporating innovation and digital health interventions into discussions on quality of care and patient safety. It aims to foster partnerships that develop effective strategies to ensure inclusivity and co-create new and sustainable outcomes in improving quality of care and patient safety for all.

Surgical “never event”- NHS never event list

Never Events list 2018

First published January 2018 (last updated February 2021)

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3. Retained foreign object post procedure

Retention of a foreign object in a patient after a surgical/invasive procedure.

‘**Surgical/invasive procedure**’ includes interventional radiology, cardiology, interventions related to vaginal birth and interventions performed outside the surgical environment – for example, central line placement in ward areas.

‘**Foreign object**’ includes any items subject to a formal counting/checking process at the start of the procedure and before its completion (such as for swabs, needles, instruments and guidewires) **except** where items:

- not subject to the formal counting/checking process are inserted any time before the procedure, with the intention of removing them during the procedure but they are not removed
- subject to the counting/checking process are inserted during the procedure and then intentionally retained after its completion, with removal planned for a later time or date as clearly recorded in the patient's notes
- are known to be missing before completion of the procedure and may be inside the patient (eg screw fragments, drill bits) but action to locate and/or retrieve them is impossible or more damaging than retention.

Literature and News related to RSI

'Chest gossypiboma after spinal surgery, not so easy to forget'

Santiago A Endara, Gerardo A Dávalos, Elizabeth Zamora E, Ligia M Redrobán, Gabriel A Molina

Journal of Surgical Case Reports, Volume
<https://doi.org/10.1093/jscr/rjad328>

Published: 17 June 2023 Article hist

PDF Split View Cite

Surgical Management of Gossypiboma: A Case Report

Sneha George Teresa¹, Juhi Saxena², Muhammad Afzal², Bruce Morel³

1. General Surgery, BronxCare Health System, New York, USA 2. General Surgery, St. George's University School of Medicine, St. George's, USA

Surgical item left in the abdomen six years after abdominoplasty: case report

AUTHORSHIP SCIMAGO INSTITUTIONS RANKINGS

ABSTRACT

The retained surgical item in patients after closure of the wound is a situation that although rare is preventable and requires specific care such as institutional protocols for prevention. We report the case of a patient six years after an abdominoplasty who presented with palpable masses, symptoms combined with their few frequency, although in case of symptoms removal is remain in patient's body.

Keywords:

Foreign bodies; Seroma; Abdominoplasty;

Surgical items retained in the abdominal cavity in diagnostic imaging tests: a series of 10 cases and literature review

Andrzej Modrzejewski, Study design, Data collection, Data interpretation, Manuscript preparation,¹ Konrad Mateusz Kaźmierczak, Data collection, Statistical analysis, Data interpretation, Manuscript preparation, Literature search,² Krzysztof Kowalik, Study design, Data interpretation, Manuscript preparation, Literature search,² and Inga Grochal, Data interpretation, Manuscript preparation, Literature search³

Author information Article notes Copyright and License information PMC Disclaimer

Retained surgical textile in the body manifest as acute pain and cold female who presented with

PMCID: PMC10317007
PMID: 37404550

Literature: case report

公立醫院去年7至9月3宗手術後遺留醫療物料病人體內

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搜尋 分享工具

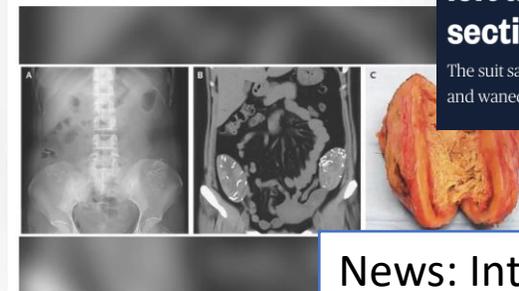


醫院管理局發布最新一期《風險通報》季刊，指公立醫院在去年7月至9月呈報5宗醫療物料遺留事件，包括3宗手術及介入程序後遺留工具或醫療物料在病人體內的個案。1宗

Surgical sponges left inside woman for at least 6 years

By Mark Lieber, CNN
5 minute read · Published 5:00 PM EST, Wed February 21, 2018

Facebook Twitter Email



News: International and local

New Zealand woman discovers surgical instrument 'size of a dinner plate' left in her body after operation

Woman suffered abdominal pains for 18 months after caesarian section until scan revealed an 'Alexis retractor' had mistakenly been left inside her



Nevada mother files lawsuit alleging doctor left a surgical sponge inside her after C-section 18 years ago

The suit says the woman "experienced pain and discomfort in her abdominal area that waxed and waned" for years after the birth of her son.

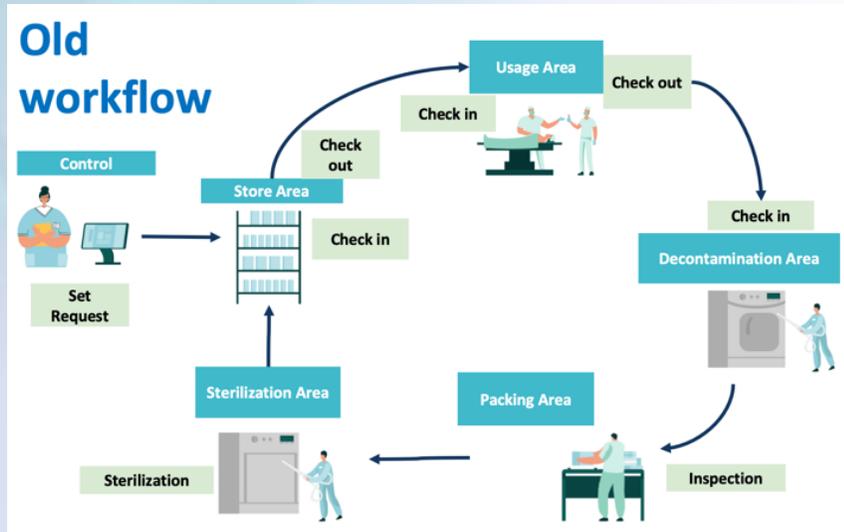
1. Endara, S. A., Dávalos, G. A., Zamora E, E., Redrobán, L. M., & Molina, G. A. (2023). 'Chest gossypiboma after spinal surgery, not so easy to forget.' *Journal of Surgical Case Reports*, 2023(6). <https://doi.org/10.1093/jscr/rjad328>
2. Favarin, G. J., Favarin, E., Borges, A. N., Pinto Junior, A. M., Baggio, V. A., & Jacques, N. de. (2016). Surgical item left in the abdomen six years after abdominoplasty: Case report. *Revista Brasileira de Cirurgia Plástica (RBCP) – Brazilian Journal of Plastic Surgery*, 31(4), 583–585. <https://doi.org/10.5935/2177-1235.2016rbcp0096>
3. George Teresa, S., Saxena, J., Afzal, M., & Morel, B. (2023). Surgical management of gossypiboma: A case report. *Cureus*. <https://doi.org/10.7759/cureus.46797>
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5. Guardian News and Media. (2023, September 4). *New Zealand woman discovers Surgical Instrument "size of a dinner plate" left in her body after operation*. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/sep/04/nz-woman-surgical-instrument-size-of-dinner-plate-inside-her>
6. Lieber, M. (2018, February 21). *Surgical sponges left inside woman for 6 years*. CNN. <https://edition.cnn.com/2018/02/21/health/surgical-sponges-left-inside-woman-study/index.html>
7. NBCUniversal News Group. (2024, January 25). *Nevada mother files lawsuit alleging doctor left a surgical sponge inside her after C-section 18 years ago*. NBCNews.com. <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/nevada-mother-files-lawsuit-alleging-doctor-left-surgical-sponge-c-sec-rcna135666>

Commonly Reported SE in 2022-23

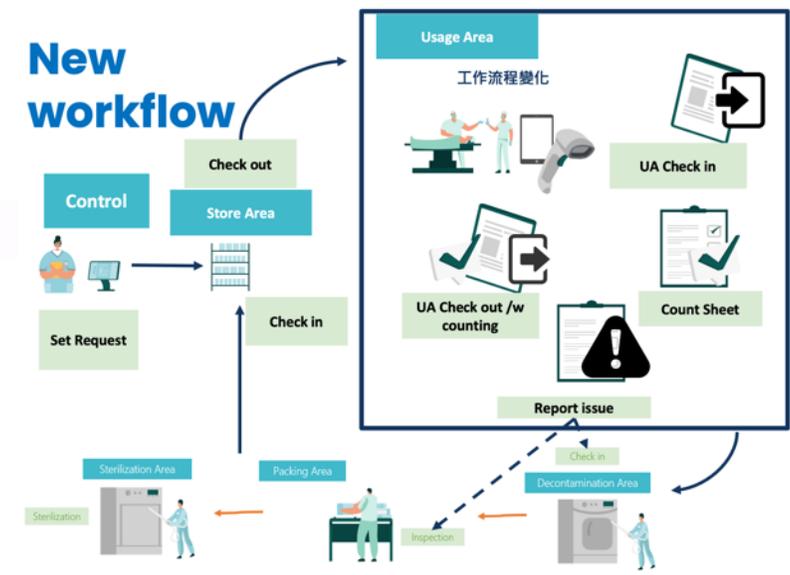
	HKSAR, China (HA)	WA, Australia (Department of Health)	USA (Joint Commission)
1.	Retained instrument/material (14)	Medication error resulting in serious harm or death (12)	<u>Fall (611)</u>
2.	Inpatient Suicide (including home leave) (4)	Surgery or other invasive procedure performed on the wrong site resulting in serious harm or death (6)	<u>Delay in treatment (89)</u>
3.	Wrong patient/body part (1)	Unintended retention of a foreign object in a patient after surgery or other invasive procedure resulting in serious harm or death (5)	Unintended Retained Foreign Object (88)

How to achieve innovation with
technology in to improve surgical
counting?

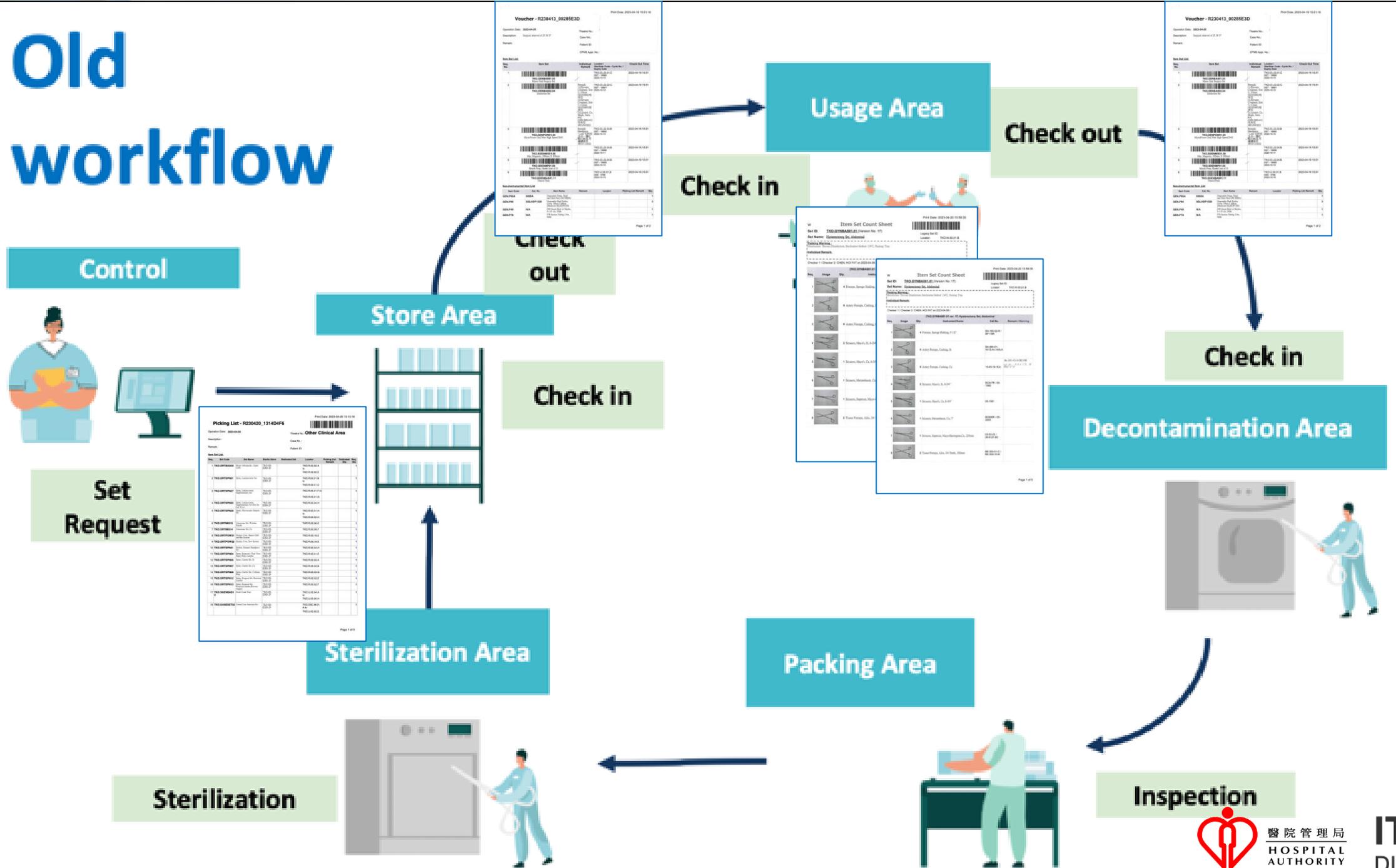
Workflow study tour and Design Thinking workshop



Workflow re-engineer



Old workflow



New workflow

Usage Area

工作流程變化

UA Check in

Count Sheet

Control



Set Request

OT2 Set Request list

Set Request Information

Case No	Request ID	Patient ID
12	R200521_1303E162	E5251423
Status	Description	
Completed	Right functional endoscopic sinus surgery	

Remark
Right upper back infected sebaceous cyst

Details

Non-Instrumental item

Status Summary

Set Type	Contaminated/Unused	Status
Tray : 10	Contaminated : 18	Issued Out : 2
Supple : 12	Unused Return : 1	Counting : 0
	Others : 3	Final Counting : 1

Item Set List Total : 3 All

Seq. no.	Set Name	Set ID

Buttons: UA Check in, Counting, Used Item Check out, Unused Return

OT2 Set Request list

Status Summary

Set Type	Contaminated/Unused	Status	UA Checked in
Tray : 10	Contaminated : 18	Issued Out : 2	UA Checked in : 1
Supple : 12	Unused Return : 1	Counting : 0	Counted : 15
	Others : 3	Final Counting : 1	Others : 3

Item Set List Total : 5 Team A

Seq. no.	Set Name	Set ID/Team	SS Check Out Time	Status
1	Orthopaedic Major, Lower Limb	UCH.B001.06 Team A	19-11-09	Initial Counted Counted
2	Orthopaedic Major, Lower Limb	UCH.B001.06 Team A	19-11-09	Initial Counted Counted
3	Orthopaedic Major, Lower Limb	UCH.B001.06 Team A	19-11-09	Initial Counted Counted
4	Orthopaedic Major, Lower Limb	UCH.B001.06 Team A	19-11-09	Initial Counted Counted
5	Orthopaedic Major, Lower Limb	UCH.B001.06 Team A	19-11-09	Initial Counted Counted

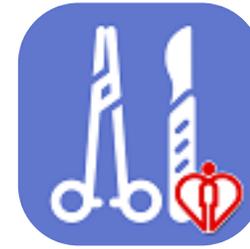
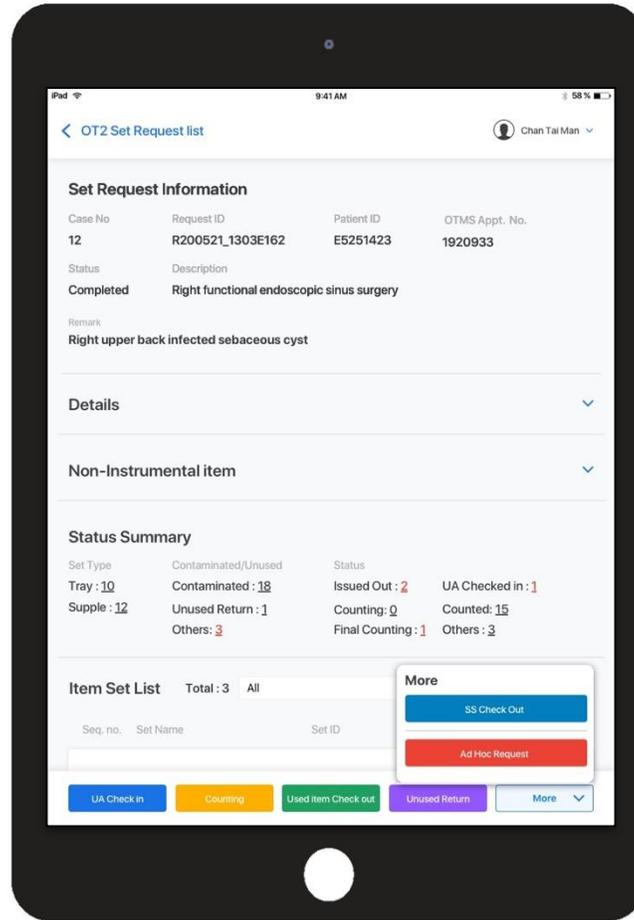
Buttons: UA Check in, Counting, Used Item Check out, Unused Return

Sterilization

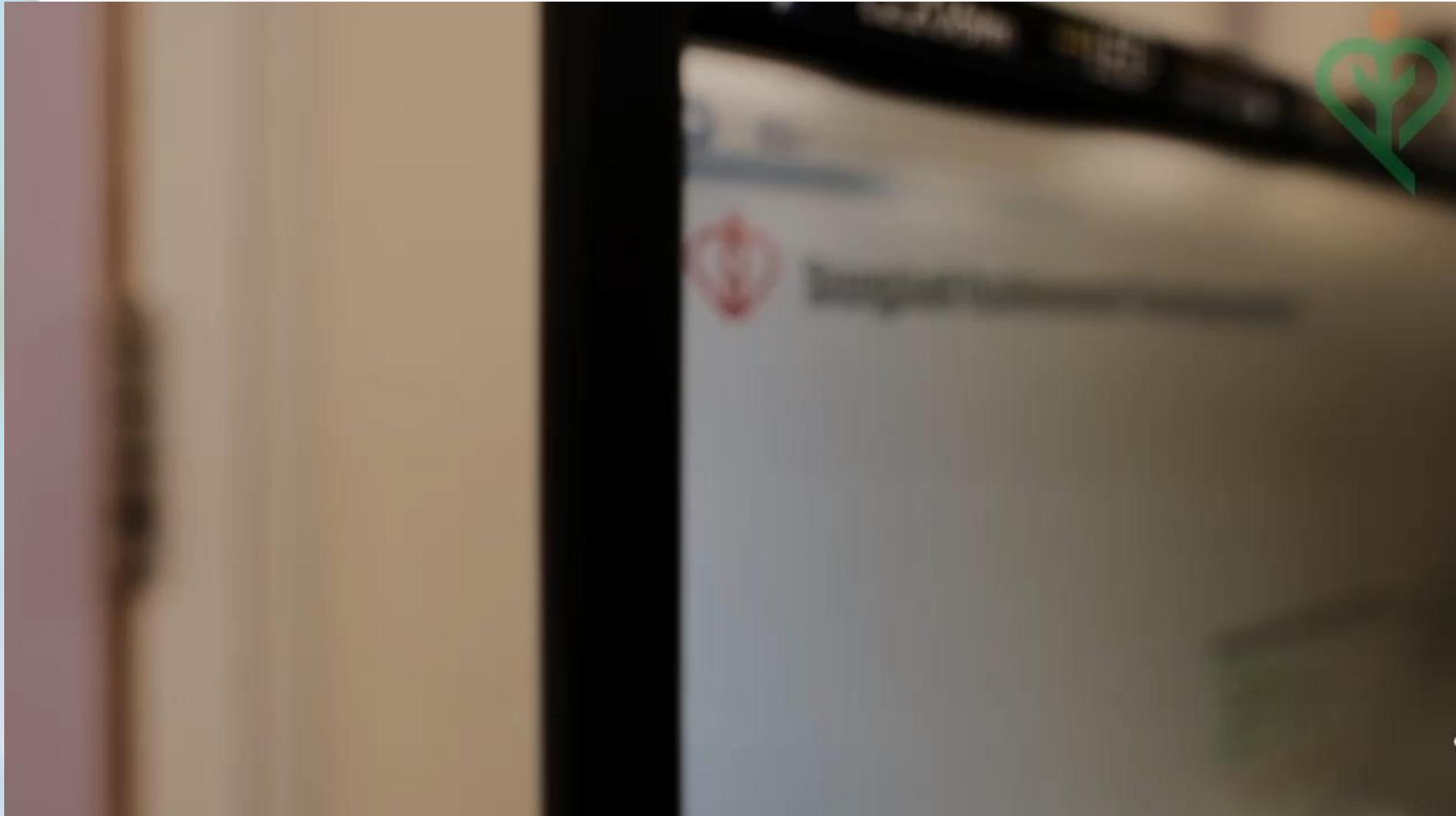
Sterilization

Area

Surgical Instrument tracking system mobile (SITS-mobile)



Video- Workflow illustration



Research Study on electronic surgical counting system evaluation

Aim and Objective

Aim:

Electronic surgical counting system is new initiative targeting to surgical counting for perioperative team. The findings will be valuable and significant for establishing surgical counting standards in the perioperative setting in Hong Kong.

Objectives

- 1. To evaluate the effects of using the electronic surgical counting system (ESCS) on the **counting time** during surgical counting for ultra-major operation
- 2. To evaluate the **satisfaction** of perioperative staff with the implementation of ESCS.
- 3. To evaluate the **effect** of the electronic surgical counting system by semi-structured interview.
- 4. To evaluate the **adverse event** i.e. Retained surgical item and counting discrepancy before and after the implementation of ESCS.

Ethical approval by REC

Joint Chinese University of Hong Kong-New Territories East Cluster
Clinical Research Ethics Committee
香港中文大學-新界東醫院聯網 臨床研究倫理 聯席委員會

8/F, Lui Che Woo Clinical Sciences Building, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, HK
Tel : (852) 3505 3935 / 2144 5926 Fax : (852) 2646 6653 Website : http://www.crec.cuhk.edu.hk

The Joint CUHK-NTEC CREC is an independent committee established by CUHK/NTEC and authorized to perform ethics and scientific review and oversight of clinical studies within the jurisdiction of CUHK/NTEC in accordance with its standard operating procedure and the principles of the Declaration of Helsinki and ICH Good Clinical Practice.

CREC Ref. No.: 2024.080

22 MAR 24

To: Mr. Hoi Tik NGAN (Student)
The Nethersole School of Nursing
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

This notice is issued by the Joint CUHK-NTEC CREC with respect to the application/submission by you, being the principal investigator of the following study at your study site:

- **Study Protocol Title:** The Effect of Implementing an Electronic Surgical Counting System on the Surgical Counting Process
- **Investigator(s):** Hoi Tik NGAN and Suzanne Hoi Shan LO
- **Academic Supervisor(s):** Prof. Suzanne Hoi Shan LO
- **Site Supervisor(s):** Dr. Ling SZETO
- **Study Site(s) in NTEC:** Not Applicable

In accordance with our standard operating procedure, we have duly performed ethics and scientific review of your application/submission as detailed below:

- **Nature of Your Application/Submission:** Initial application Amendments/changes Others: Renewal
- **Mode of Review:** Full review Expedited review
- **Date of Initial/Renewal Approval:** 22 March 2024
- **Document(s) Reviewed:** See Schedule 1
- **Reviewer(s):** See Schedule 2

After due review by our reviewer(s), we hereby write to inform you of our decision on your application/submission as follows:

- **Decision:** Application/Submission approved Application/Submission approved with condition(s) (see condition(s) below) Application/Submission approved with remark(s) (see remark(s) below) Application/Submission approved with condition(s) and remark(s) (see condition(s) and remark(s) below)
- **Regular Progress Report(s) Required:** Every 12 months from the date of initial/renewal approval and during the period of the study if required

Joint Chinese University of Hong Kong-New Territories East Cluster
Clinical Research Ethics Committee
香港中文大學-新界東醫院聯網 臨床研究倫理 聯席委員會

8/F, Lui Che Woo Clinical Sciences Building, Prince of Wales Hospital, Shatin, HK
Tel : (852) 3505 3935 / 2144 5926 Fax : (852) 2646 6653 Website : http://www.crec.cuhk.edu.hk

You, being the principal investigator of the study at your study site, are reminded to comply with our requirements and to maintain communication with us during the period of the study by undertaking the principal investigator's responsibilities including (but not limited to):

- if the study is an industry-sponsored clinical study, submitting to us a copy of the fully executed indemnity agreement satisfying the Hospital Authority's requirement prior to commencement of the study (if it has not been submitted yet);
- observing and complying with all applicable requirements under our standard operating procedure ("IRB/REC SOP"), the Declaration of Helsinki and the ICH GCP (if applicable);
- submitting regular progress report(s) at the required intervals (as specified above) in accordance with the requirements in the IRB/REC SOP;
- not implementing any amendment/change to any approved study document/material without our written approval, except where necessary to eliminate any immediate hazard to the subjects or if an amendment/change is only of an administrative or logistical nature;
- notifying us of any new information that may adversely affect the rights, safety or well-being of the subjects or the proper conduct of the study;
- reporting any deviation from the study protocol or compliance incident that has occurred during the study and may adversely affect the rights, safety or well-being of any subject in accordance with the requirements in the IRB/REC SOP;
- submitting safety reports on all SAEs observed at your study site or SUSARs reported from outside your study site in accordance with the requirements in the IRB/REC SOP; and
- submitting a final report in accordance with the requirements in the IRB/REC SOP upon completion or termination of the study at your study site.

In addition to the above, you are also reminded to observe and comply with other applicable regulatory and management requirements including (but not limited to):

- if required by Hong Kong laws or regulations, obtaining a certificate for clinical trial through the Hong Kong Department of Health and complying with the associated requirements;
- obtaining the necessary consent from the management of your institution/department in accordance with the requirements of your institution/department;
- if required by local laws or regulations at conducting site out of IRB/REC's jurisdiction, obtaining an approval and complying with associated requirements;
- not representing to any third party or in any way likely to mislead any third party forming the view that the approval from the IRB/REC has any extraterritorial effect; and
- with due diligence ensuring your team, staff, agents or whosoever connected with you to comply with the preceding requirements.

Yours sincerely,


Envy Lee (Secretary)
for and on behalf of
The Joint CUHK-NTEC CREC

EL/s

Method- Mixed-methods

	Quantitative:			Qualitative:
Evaluation method	Pre-post comparison of Surgical counting time for ultra major surgery	Online questionnaire on System Useability	Pre-post comparison of adverse events	Semi-structure interview
Number of participant	369 ultra major surgeries	35	N/A	12
Tools/ Method	Compare Surgical counting time include: initial count, first count, final count and total count time	System Usability Scale (10 questions validated tool for system usability)	N/A	Thematic analysis

Participants and subjects

Anesthetist, surgeons and nurses involved in surgical counting process.

Not limited to any working experience and ranks

1. System log for counting time evaluation for ultra major surgery

Usage Area				
Code	Check-in Time	Check-in By	Counted Time	Counted By

Time frame capture before and after intervention:

1. pre-1-month, (baseline comparison)
2. the month of intervention,
3. post-1-month,
4. post-3-month and
5. post-6-month

2. Evaluate the satisfaction of perioperative staff by System Usability Online Questionnaire



Section 1 of 4

Title of Study: **The Effect of Implementing an Electronic Surgical Counting System (SITS-mobile application) on the Surgical Counting Process**

B I U  

You are being invited to the above study. Before making any decision to participate, you need to clearly understand the details and aims of this study. Please carefully read the following information. If you have any query, you can contact the investigator directly for details. Your participation in this study is highly appreciated and is entirely voluntary. You have every right to ask any questions and to refuse participation.

All data collected will be anonymous, kept confidential for 3 years, and used for research purpose only. The research data will be stored safely, and nobody can access the data without permission from the investigators. Individuals' names will not be used during data analysis nor identified when the results are reported. This study has been approved by the Joint CUHK-NTEC CREC and the joint CUHK-NTEC CREC has the right to access subjects' records. You may contact CUHK-NTEC CREC at Tel: 35053935.

Should you have any question or enquiry, please do not hesitate to contact: Mr. Ngan Hoi Tik at 39192342 or E-mail: nht986@ha.org.hk

Thank you very much for your help in this project.

Principle Investigator: Ngan Hoi Tik

Academic supervisor: Prof. Suzanne Lo

Doctor of Nursing Programme student

The Nethersole School of Nursing, CUHK

Demographic data:

- Age
- Gender
- Education
- Rank
- Year(s) of working experience
- Year(s) of experience in current rank
- Number of year(s) using smartphone



醫院管理局
HOSPITAL
AUTHORITY



香港中文大學醫學院
Faculty of Medicine
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

SUS questionnaire with 5 points scale:

I think that I would like to use this ESCS frequently.

I found the ESCS unnecessarily complex.

I thought the ESCS was easy to use.

I think that I would need the support of a technical person to be able to use this ESCS.

I found the various functions in this ESCS were well integrated.

I thought there was too much inconsistency in this ESCS.

I would imagine that most people would learn to use this ESCS very quickly.

I found the ESCS very cumbersome to use.

I felt very confident using the ESCS .

I needed to learn a lot of things before I could get going with this ESCS .

3. Evaluate the effect of the electronic surgical counting system by semi-structured interview.



Focused Interview guiding question.

Usability and Workflow:

- How has the implementation of the ESCS affected the workflow in the operating room (OR)?
- What challenges or bottlenecks have you encountered while using the ESCS during surgical procedures?
- Are there any specific features of the ESCS that enhance or hinder your efficiency?

Accuracy and Reliability:

- How confident are you in the accuracy of the ESCS for tracking surgical items?
- Have there been instances where the ESCS failed to detect discrepancies or retained items?
- How do you handle discrepancies between the ESCS count and the manual count?

Integration and Interoperability:

- How well does the ESCS integrate with other hospital systems (e.g., electronic health records, OT management system)?
- Does the ESCS communicate effectively with other team members (nurses, surgeons, anesthesiologists)?
- Have you experienced any interoperability challenges with the ESCS?

Training and Support:

- What training was provided to OR staff for using the ESCS effectively?
- Are there ongoing training needs or areas where additional support would be beneficial?
- How do you address staff turnover and ensure new team members are proficient with the ESCS?

Patient Safety and Error Prevention:

- How has the ESCS contributed to preventing retained surgical items or wrong counts?

Main theme for semi-structured interview:

1. Usability and Workflow
2. Accuracy and Reliability
3. Integration and Interoperability
4. Training and Support
5. Patient Safety and Error Prevention
6. Efficiency and Time Savings

ANNUAL REPORT ON
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HONG KONG

January 2024



4. Evaluate the adverse event

- RSI by tracking the Annual Report on Sentinel & Serious Untoward Events
- Counting discrepancies by local record

Findings of the evaluation study

Finding 1- Counting time for ultra major surgery

Significance different of counting time across group

Table 5- ANOVA test for Initial count, First count, Final count and Total count time across group

		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Initial count	Between Groups	237.180	4	59.295	21.803	<.001
	Within Groups	989.931	364	2.720		
	Total	1227.111	368			
First count	Between Groups	221.908	4	55.477	25.900	<.001
	Within Groups	779.691	364	2.142		
	Total	1001.599	368			
Final count	Between Groups	146.705	4	36.676	19.092	<.001
	Within Groups	699.268	364	1.921		
	Total	845.973	368			
Total count time	Between Groups	1780.597	4	445.149	24.493	<.001
	Within Groups	6615.408	364	18.174		
	Total	8396.005	368			

Significance different between pre-1-month vs post-3-month and post-6-month

Table 8- Independent Samples Test for Counting Times One Month Before and Three

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means			
		F	Sig.	t	df	Significance	
						One-Sided p	Two-Sided
Initial count	Equal variances assumed	25.888	<.001	6.389	158	<.001	
	Equal variances not assumed			6.033	105.735	<.001	
First count	Equal variances assumed	14.920	<.001	6.787	158	<.001	
	Equal variances not assumed			6.407	105.499	<.001	
Final count	Equal variances assumed	11.628	<.001	5.928	158	<.001	
	Equal variances not assumed			5.662	114.801	<.001	
Total count	Equal variances assumed	16.057	<.001	6.649	158	<.001	
	Equal variances not assumed			6.282	106.111	<.001	

Table 9- Independent Samples Test for Counting Times One Month Before and Six Months After ESCS Implementation

		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		t-test for Equality of Means							
		F	Sig.	t	df	Significance		Mean Difference	Std. Error Difference	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference	
						One-Sided p	Two-Sided p			Lower	Upper
Initial count	Equal variances assumed	28.725	<.001	6.906	167	<.001	<.001	1.826	.264	1.304	2.348
	Equal variances not assumed			6.348	101.626	<.001	<.001	1.826	.288	1.256	2.397
First count	Equal variances assumed	14.701	<.001	8.039	167	<.001	<.001	1.826	.264	1.304	2.387
	Equal variances not assumed			7.402	102.512	<.001	<.001	1.826	.288	1.256	2.397
Final count	Equal variances assumed	9.942	.002	7.298	167	<.001	<.001	1.826	.264	1.304	2.387
	Equal variances not assumed			6.864	114.118	<.001	<.001	1.826	.288	1.256	2.397
Total count	Equal variances assumed	17.719	<.001	7.754	167	<.001	<.001	1.826	.264	1.304	2.387
	Equal variances not assumed			7.140	102.554	<.001	<.001	1.826	.288	1.256	2.397

Significance reduction on surgical counting time (reduced 4mins on average) -> improved efficiency after system learning curve

Finding 2- satisfaction of perioperative staff

In total 35 nurses participated in System Usability Online Questionnaires

The analysis of the collected SUS data revealed a mean score of 62.8 across all participants.

This score situates the ESCS within the range of 62.7-64.9, which corresponds to a C- grade in the context of SUS evaluations.

This grade suggests that the ESCS is perceived as marginally acceptable in terms of usability by the users.

Table 11-Demographics data of participants in online questionnaire

Age group		
25-34	18	51.42%
35-44	12	34.29%
45-54	3	8.57%
55 or above	2	5.71%
Sex		
Male	11	31.42%
Female	24	68.57%
Academic Qualification		
Diploma	2	5.71%
Bachelor's Degree	11	31.43%
Master's Degree	21	60.00%
Doctorate's Degree	1	2.86%
Working Experience		
5 years<	7	20.00%
5-10 years	11	31.43%
>10 years	17	48.57%
Rank		
EN	1	2.86%
RN	18	51.43%
APN	10	28.57%
NC/ANC	2	5.71%
DOM/WM	4	11.43%

The 1st version of the system is accepted by clinical users-> System is usable

Finding 3- Semi-structured interview

- Participants : 12
 - Anesthetist: 3
 - Surgeon: 4
 - Nurse: 5
- Age: 27-55 years old
- Working experience: 3-32 years
- Rank:
 - Doctor: Chief of Service, Consultant, Associate Consultant
 - Nurse: Ward Manager, Advanced Practice Nurse, Registered Nurse and Enrolled Nurse

Abstract of result on Semi-structured interview

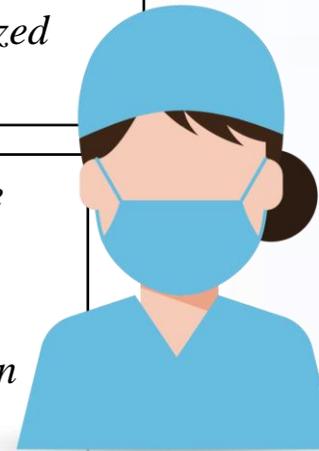
“I assumed that our staff should perform and ensure the patient safety standard no matter using paper form record or electronic system. However the system should have marginal benefit when compare to the paper workflow.”
(Consultant Surgeon)

“In general, it is impossible to achieve zero error, however nurse perform counting according to the standardize guideline and ESCS should have minimize the risk to counting discrepancy.” (Consultant Surgeon)

“The design of ESCS is based on our clinical workflow. We basically follow the steps provided in ESCS and we should be counting in a standardized way.” (Registered Nurse)

“The system has help in minimize the chance of missing count and wrong count. Nurses feel more confidence and safe in the surgical counting process as we usually over worry on retained surgical item. I am sure the system can help to ensure the patient safety by smoothen the surgical counting process.”
(Advanced Practice Nurse)

“It is more efficiency and reduce human error with standardized procedure when come to digitalization.” (Chief of Service)



Finding 4- Adverse event

- Retained Surgical item:
 - No reported RSI during study period
- Counting discrepancy:
 - Prior to the ESCS implementation, the study site recorded 12 counting discrepancies throughout the year of 2022.
 - Following the deployment of the ESCS in December 2022, the frequency of counting discrepancies was halved, with only 6 occurrences reported over the subsequent year.

Counting discrepancies halved
(Most of them discover during initial count and no harm to patient)

Year 2022: 12 counting discrepancy events

Year 2023: 6 counting discrepancy events



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Impact of SITS-mobile in Hospital Authority



SITS-mobile in Hospital Authority



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Revised version, as endorsed by COC-GIN on the 121st Meeting held on 24 Jun 2022
COC-GIN Approved Paper 05/10/2016

 Hospital Authority Head Office	Document No.	HAHO-COC-NS-NUR-015-10-V02
Advanced Nursing Standards for Patient Care	Issue Date	24/06/2022
Counting of Accountable Items Used During Operative Procedure(s)	Review Date	24/06/2025
	Page	1 of 6

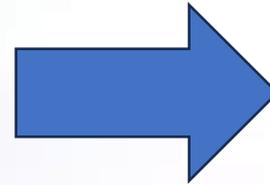
Advanced Nursing Standards for Patient Care Counting of Accountable Items Used During Operative Procedure(s)

Version	Effective Date
1	07/03/2016
2	24/06/2022

Document Number	HAHO-COC-NS-NUR-015-10-V02
Author	SAG (Peri-operative / Anaesthesiology)
Custodian	Nursing Quality & Safety Subcommittee
Approved / Endorsed By	Coordinating Committee – Grade (Nursing)
Approval Date	24/06/2022
Distribution List	HA – All Nursing Staff

This printed copy may not be the most updated version. Please refer to the electronic version for confirmation if in doubt.

Hospital Authority Guidelines on
Counting of Accountable items used
during operative procedure 2022



All Hospitals within Hospital
Authority has adopted SITS-
mobile application for surgical
counting
(24 hospital and over 250
procedure rooms)



SITS-mobile

Rolled-out in all hospitals with operation rooms



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 Aug 2023 – Jul 2024

Reduced workload

- Replaced paper-based surgical counting with SITS-mobile
- Reduce the operation team stress on surgical counting
- Ensure standardized counting in operation procedure

Papers Reduced

- Total paperless workflow
- As estimation of annual saving of **5M** papers (~ **600** trees)
- Cost reduction in print out: over **4 million HKD** (Print per cost around 0.8 HKD per page)



Objectives

To digitalized and standardize surgical counting process in operation theater

Enhanced Efficiency

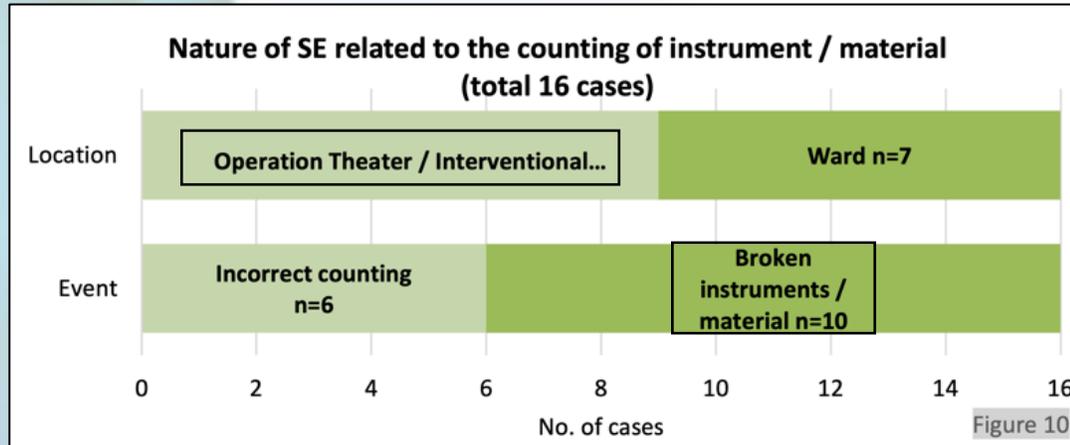
- Reduced surgical counting time
- Reduced documentation time
- Enhanced team communication with horizontal integration with OTMS and SITS

Improved Patient Safety

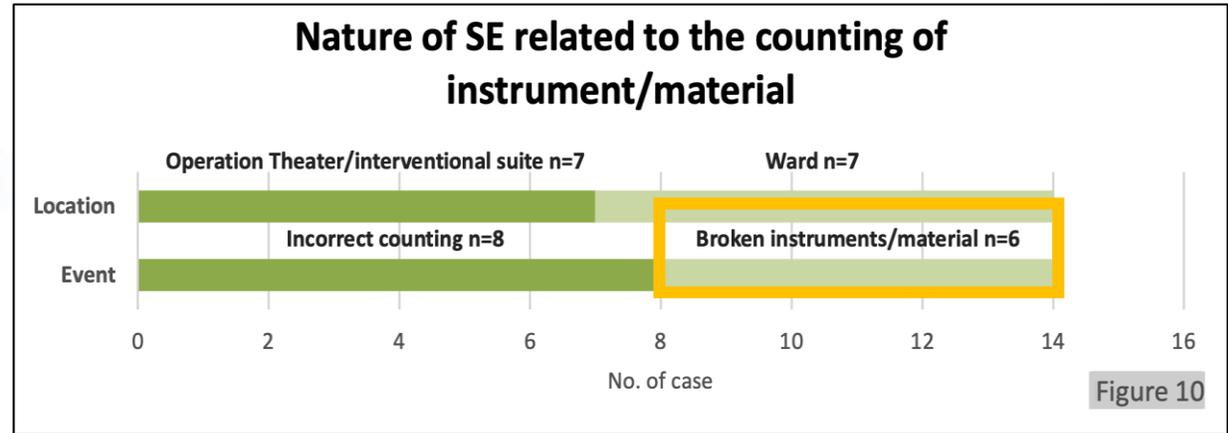
- *Standardized surgical counting for **148,443** surgical procedure and over **1M** surgical instrument set
- Reduced surgical counting discrepancy

*Number of surgical procedure used SITS-mobile for counting: 148,443
Number of instrument set counted: 1,028,709
Period: Aug 2023- July 2024

HA SE related to the counting of instrument – report for whole HA



Year: 2021-2022



Year: 2022-2023

For the 6 cases reported in 2022
 4 cases are related cement (operation consumable)
 1 case is related gauze
 Only 1 case report with metallic fragment

Key takeaways

“Incorporating innovation and digital health to improve quality of care and patient safety.”-WHO

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Thank You!



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