

TIP OF THE WEEK # 56

WHO Safe Surgery Checklist

A pilot study in which eight hospitals across the globe implemented the WHO Safe Surgery Checklist has proven to reduce adverse surgical events by a third, according to a press release by the World Health Organization (WHO). The study, published in the January 29, 2009 issue of the *New England Journal of Medicine*, showed that by utilizing the checklist, the death rate following surgery dropped from 1.5% to 0.8% (more than 40%), while the complication rate dropped from 11% to 7%.

The beauty of the checklist is that it is simple, virtually cost-free, and likely to save more lives than a whole bunch of "miracle" cures. The entire article can be viewed at the following link:

<http://content.nejm.org/cgi/content/full/360/5/491>