

Theatre Handover to Critical Care

Aim To provide safe and effective handover of clinical information from theatre staff to Critical Care
Scope All patients admitted to Critical Care from theatre or recovery following elective or emergency surgery

1 Establish on ICU monitor & ventilator (if needed) & check:

- Breathing / ventilating OK?
- Monitoring OK?
- Haemodynamically stable?
- Adequate analgesia / sedation?

2 Ensure key staff are present for handover

Handing over team:

- Anaesthetist*?
- Scrub / Recovery Staff?

Receiving team:

- Nurse?
- SHO?
- Registrar / Consultant?

*All ventilated or complex cases should have a face-to-face handover from the Anaesthetist. For simple, level 1, elective cases, prior telephone handover from the Anaesthetist to ICU SpR or Consultant may be sufficient.

3 Follow DCCQ Theatre Handover Checklist (overleaf)

Handing-over Anaesthetist is the team leader for this handover

This is a **Hands-Off Handover** – all staff should pause & listen

4 Ensure all questions are answered

Handing over team:

- Is the Anaesthetist's handover complete?
- Is the Scrub Staff's handover complete?

Receiving team:

- Is the receiving Nursing Team's plan complete?
- Is the receiving Medical Team's plan complete?

DCCQ Theatre Handover Checklist

Patient Information

- Name, Age & ID Bracelet
- Medical History
- Allergies
- Name of procedure

Anaesthetic Information

- Type of anaesthesia
- Airway – grade / method / difficulties
- Intra-operative course & complications
- Anticipated postop problems – bleeding / pain / airway issues
- Analgesia plan
- Information given to relatives
- Epidural/PCA/LA infusion prescribed & attached
- Current infusions running

Surgical Information

- Surgical Consultant
- Intra-operative surgical course & complications
- Blood loss
- Antibiotic plan
- Medication plan – restart / withhold & timing
- DVT prophylaxis
- Plan for tubes & drains
- NG tube & feeding plan
- Postop investigations

Other Information

- Are infusions properly labelled?
- Is the correct fluid in the transducer bag?
- Where is the patient's property?