

in Tampa, Fla., means that no patient is taken back to the OR without a marked and signed surgical site. If ink marking isn't possible due to an ambiguous, hidden or fluid site, the patient is marked with an orange wristband, on which the site, side and physician's initials are written. The wristbands are manufactured by a medical supply manufacturer known for its blaze-orange safety products, which helps them to stand out as a cautionary warning. "Anyone who's been in the OR for any amount of time knows that orange means safety," says **Connie Garrett, MSN, RN, CNL, CNOR**, assistant nurse manager and OR educator. The orange band is removed when surgery is completed in order to maintain the procedure's confidentiality during transport and in post-op.



Best Tip for Radiation Safety

The old lead aprons at **Delray Beach (Fla.) Surgery Center** were starting to fray at the edges. A surgeon pulling one on actually described them as "disgusting." He asked clinical director **Carol Cappella, RN, MSN, CNOR**, how much it would cost to buy new ones. "I said, 'Not much,'" she recalls. "He said, 'Do it.'" When she did, she let OR personnel pick out their own aprons — which aren't just blue anymore. "They chose camouflage and college colors and butterflies," she

says. This offered more than just aesthetic appeal. Now the surgeons and staff know which aprons are theirs, and hang them after use instead of crumpling them up, throwing them around or abandoning them in the OR, which will extend their useful lives and provide team members with uncompromised protection during fluoroscopic imaging.

Best Tip for Taking the Time Out

At the **Delray Beach (Fla.) Surgery Center**, no one passes the knife until the time out is complete and all are in agreement. At the **Adult and Children Surgery Center of Southwest Florida** in Fort Myers, Fla., the OR nurse's voice is the only sound during the time out. **Charlene**

J. Anderson, RN, BSN, the surgical services team leader at **Trinity Mother Frances Hospital** in Tyler, Texas, reminds us that "a kind reminder to a distracted or forgetful surgeon is OK."

Best Tip for Preventing Wrong-Site Surgery

At the **Elmhurst (Ill.) Outpatient Surgery Center**, the circulator or surgeon writes the patient's name, procedure and implant on a white board in the OR for each case. "All of the participants can review the board during the time out before incision and before implantation," says Executive Director **Tina Mentz**. "This has been a great reference, and we have caught several discrepancies as a result." **OSM**



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