



## Service Priorities and Programmes Electronic Presentations

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**Submitting author:** Ms Mei Yin Leung

**Post title:** Registered Nurse, RTSKH, HKEC

### **Handover Between Scrub Nurses During Changeover-TIPS**

*Leung MY, Yeung S M, Yu CW, Cheung WK, Kwong PS, Ng LK  
Operating Theatre, Ruttonjee & Tang Shiu Kin Hospital*

#### **Keywords:**

Handover

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#### **Introduction**

Currently there is no standard format in clinical handover between scrub nurses during the changeover in the operating theatre. The content that scrub nurses choose to handover is based on their experience and their perceptions. The content of handover may be incomplete, fragmented or unorganized. The scrub nurse who receives the unorganized information may feel frustrated and anxious, in which he/she needs to re-organize the information and this inhibits a smooth takeover. Presently there are some handover tools available in Hong Kong for scrub nurses, for examples, ISBAR and SWITCH. However, they are either not fit in the setting of operating theatre or they are not so complete. In order to promote a smoother takeover, we have developed a tool TIPS (a short form for Table setting, Instruments, Packed gauze and Surgical procedure) which is more accommodated to scrub nurses.

#### **Objectives**

1. To enhance patient safety.
2. To promote a smoother takeover between scrub nurses
3. To promote standardization in the handover
4. To reduce the anxiety of scrub nurses during changeover

#### **Methodology**

In January 2018, questionnaires were distributed to the staff in the operating theatre. 90% of them agreed that the current handover is unorganized and without standard. A poster of TIPS has been designed and has been posted on the white cupboard in each theatre. When there is a changeover during the operation, scrub nurses can look at the poster as a quick reference. The poster of TIPS will guide them to handover the information in a more organized and complete way.

#### **Result**

Result

Staff members all welcomed this tool and the feedbacks were positive. They all agreed that the tool helped them to take the changeover procedure more smoothly and efficiently.

Conclusion

Handover between scrub nurses were usually unorganized and without standard. The incomplete and fragmented information during changeover may induce certain extent of anxiety to scrub nurses. The tool TIPS is simple and easy to follow. It serves as a quick reference for scrub nurses to organize the information so as to hand over the operation more smoothly. The implementation of TIPS is useful and the feedback is encouraging. Staff members agree that the TIPS have promoted a smoother and more standardized handover. At the same time, their anxiety during changeover has been reduced to certain extent.

#### Recommendations

The tool TIPS is now being used in the Ruttonjee Hospital only. It has just been launched for less than one month. The time of implementation is short although the feedback is encouraging. With more evaluation and further improvements, we hope that the tool TIPS would be extended to circulating nurses in the operating setting and also other hospitals.