

**Why do they need a checklist?  
Don't they have this information  
written down?**

Checklists help people with the steps they need to take.

For example, when you get a new Warrant of Fitness for your car, the mechanic will use a checklist to make sure they have checked all parts of your car.

It's important that the same checks are taken with your operation.

The Surgical Safety Checklist is an important part of this.



For more information about how the Health Quality and Safety Commission is promoting the Surgical Safety Checklist to keep you safe go to <http://www.hqsc.govt.nz> and type 'surgical safety checklist' in the search box.

# Keeping you safe during surgery



New Zealand Government



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We are **keeping you safe** during your surgery by asking you some questions.

On the day of your surgery, a nurse will ask you to confirm:

- your name
- your date of birth
- the operation you are having
- any allergies and reactions you have.

The nurse will check that you have given permission for the surgery and anaesthesia, and confirm the place on your body where you are having your operation.

Your anaesthetist will do their own safety check as well and may also ask you some questions.



We will ask you these questions **a number of times** before you have your surgery.

If your child is having surgery, we will also need to ask these questions. You can answer these questions on behalf of your child.

You will also have the chance to ask any questions you have at this time.



These questions are part of the **Surgical Safety Checklist** which was developed by the World Health Organization.

The aim of this checklist is to make sure that **all important steps** have been taken to keep you safe during surgery.

The checklist is used by everyone involved in your surgery – the nurses, the anaesthetist, the surgeon and others.

