

Sign, Mark & X-ray (SMaX)

A Checklist for Safety

- Involve the patient in confirming the operative site either through informed consent or during the actual marking. Surgeons are encouraged to personally obtain informed consent. Copies of the operative permit/informed consent form should state the site and side of surgery and be shared with the patient, surgeon, anesthesiologist, assistant or scrub nurse and circulating nurse.
- Sign your name to the operative site.
- Each member of the operative team should verify the correct site.
- Verify that X-rays and medical records are for the correct patient, as well as confirming the identity of the patient.
- Each of the following items should be double-checked against the marked site:
 - Medical record
 - X-rays and other imaging studies (marked “L” or “R” to prevent being placed backwards on the light box)
 - Informed consent
 - Operating room/anesthesia record
- Consider having your assistant or scrub nurse always stand opposite the side where the surgeon should stand.
- Consider or suggest an intraoperative X-ray during surgery, after exposure using markers that do not move to confirm the vertebral level to be operated. Consider a radiology reading.

Complete all the items on this page. Relying on a single preventive effort only can result in errors!

Patient Name: _____

Physician: _____

Procedure(s): _____ Date: _____

Signature of Person Completing the Checklist: _____