

CHANGE PACKAGE: PREOPERATIVE TESTING PRIOR TO LOW-RISK SURGERIES

What are we trying to accomplish?

Physicians and other leaders in the hospital sector have developed Choosing Wisely recommendations to reduce routine preoperative testing for asymptomatic patients undergoing low-risk surgery. Their goal is to reduce unnecessary preoperative assessments and any potential associated harms.

How can I use this change package?

You can use this change package to review your hospital’s preoperative processes and identify areas for improvement.

This package contains:

- Resources to get you started
- Sample indicators to track your progress
- Links to an online forum where you can connect with others working on this change idea

Getting started resources:

Choosing Wisely partners and others have developed several resources to help you get started with your local initiative and connect with others to find out how they are implementing their changes.

- [Diving Into Overuse in Hospitals](#): A Choosing Wisely Canada starter kit for reducing unnecessary tests and treatments in hospitals and for becoming a Choosing Wisely Canada hospital.
- [Drop the Pre-Op](#): A toolkit from North York General Hospital’s Preoperative Assessment Clinic profiling the “how-tos” of creating a system that provides individual, patient-focused care designed to avoid medically unnecessary preoperative assessments and investigations.
- [Beyond the Mask](#): Developed by Ontario’s Anesthesiologists, the guide discusses several different approaches to reducing unnecessary care in anesthesiology departments, and includes templates, tools, guidance, and change management suggestions.
- [Quorum](#): An online community dedicated to improving the quality of health care across Ontario. Find examples from other hospitals working to reduce medically unnecessary preoperative assessments and investigations.
- [Hospital Quality Improvement Plan](#): A public commitment to meet quality improvement goals. Incorporating Choosing Wisely recommendations into your Quality Improvement Plan as a custom indicator will help align quality improvement efforts for more effective change.

Suggested indicators:

Calculating and comparing preoperative testing rates for low-risk surgeries can provide a starting point for tracking and making improvements. The [Hospital Performance Series: Preoperative testing before low-risk surgeries report](#) provides comparative rates. Consider reviewing the indicators in this report and/or generating your own, depending on your needs. Check with your Anesthesia Department for a copy of your Hospital Performance Series report.

Indicators profiled in [Hospital Performance Series](#) report include crude rates of preoperative ECG or chest X-ray tests calculated for endoscopy, ophthalmologic surgery, and other low-risk surgeries.