

## Adherence of Trauma and Orthopaedics Surgery Operative Notes to the RCS Good Surgical Practice Guidelines in Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital

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**Abstract :** Aim: Auditing the adherence of Trauma and Orthopaedics Operative notes to the RCS Good Surgical Practice Guidelines. Method: Clinical audit conducted on 150 operative notes over a period of 2 months April- May 2023, including emergency and elective surgeries performed in Ashford and St. Peter's Hospital. The RCS Good Practice Surgical Guidelines for an ideal operative note were used to compare. Results: Date of the procedure and signature of the surgeon were mentioned in all the notes by default in the electronic template being used. Title of the operation performed and whether elective or emergency were mentioned by 92% and 45%, respectively. Name of theatre anaesthetist and operating surgeons were mentioned by 73% and 93% respectively. Time of surgery mentioned by 26%. Operative findings and operative diagnosis mentioned by 83% and 53% respectively. Incision and complications of surgery mentioned in 80% and 53%, respectively. Details of tissue added/ altered/ removed mentioned by 46%. Information on prosthesis or implant used is mentioned by 54%. Details of closure and anticipated blood loss mentioned in 91% and 45% respectively. Antibiotic prophylaxis was mentioned by 63%, out of which only 23% mentioned the name and duration of the antibiotic. VTE prophylaxis was mentioned by 84%, out of which only 23% and 29% mentioned the name and duration of the prophylaxis, respectively. Conclusion: There is more for improvement in the operative notes for better continuity of care between the operating surgeons and other doctors in the wards taking care of the patients post operatively. We recommend to follow a standardized guidelines by all the nationwide and a standard template to be followed by all.

**Keywords :** surgery, notes, RCS, guidelines

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