



## **Attachment K**

### **SURGICAL TOWEL MANAGEMENT**

1. Whenever possible if white surgical towels will be used during a case they should be opened at the initial count performed before the patient enters the OR. If it is not known if a particular surgeon uses surgical towels, packages of sterile surgical towels should be available in the OR.
2. The white surgical towel count will be documented on the dry erase board. The white surgical towels will be counted and documented in the unit of issue which is usually 2, 4 or 6.
3. A distinct name is recommended for a white surgical towel so when written on the board they will not be confused with drape towels. It is not advised to just write “towels” on the board. Names which could be used are:
  - surgical towel
  - radiopaque towel (abbreviated ROT)
  - white surgical towel
4. Surgical towels will be counted at each of the IN and OUT counts when sponge counts are performed.
5. At the closing count all the surgical towels should be removed from the patient and counted out. At the final count all the surgical towels should be on the back table or in an appropriate receptacle.
6. Surgical towels will not be cut or altered but will remain in their original configuration.
7. Surgical towels should not be used inside of patients for therapeutic packing, lap pads should be used. The x-ray markers of lap pads are well known and larger than the markers in radiopaque towels.