

The American Association of Neurological Surgeons Endorses JCAHOs Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site Wrong Procedure Wrong Person Surgery

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As the spokesorganization for all practitioners of the specialty of neurosurgery, The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) is dedicated to advancing the specialty of neurological surgery in order to provide the highest quality of care to our patients. Patient safety and outcomes are very high priorities of the AANS, and as such, the AANS endorses the Joint Commission's Universal Protocol.

The Universal Protocol for Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery offers clear, concise solutions to help physicians and allied health professionals eliminate preventable surgical errors. In effect for just over a year, this protocol should help decrease the number of wrong site surgery cases, but only if there is compliance with the guidelines as written. This will inevitably lead to a safer environment for patients and overall improved patient satisfaction and outcomes.

It is essential that all health care providers follow the guidelines 100 percent of the time for every patient undergoing any surgical procedure. However, the protocol should allow for implementation with appropriate adaptation to address the specifics involved for each patient on a case-by-case basis.

Providing and delivering the highest possible patient safety standards is an integral component of reforming the nation's healthcare system.

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