



## Minnesota Data Demonstrate Fewer Adverse Events in Facilities with Certified Surgical Technologists

The Minnesota Adverse Health Events Reporting Act requires public dissemination by healthcare facilities of 28 adverse medical events. **Analysis of the data from 2009-2013, by facility, reveals that reported adverse surgical events (wrong body part, wrong procedure, wrong patient, foreign retained objects) occurred 40% less often in hospitals that require education and certification for surgical technologists compared to hospitals that do not require education or certification for surgical technologists.**

The surgical technologist is the professional near the patient responsible for counting supplies and instruments to prevent foreign retained objects. **Foreign retained objects analyzed separately occurred 55% less in hospitals that require surgical technologist education and certification compared to hospitals that do not.**

Data were calculated using relative increase. Because of the confidentiality of root cause analyses of these events, it is difficult to determine exact fault. Nevertheless, the data decisively show that healthcare facilities that value competency in their surgical staffs experienced better outcomes.

Data source: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/patientsafety/>