Quality Improvement: Retained Surgical Items

UF Protocol (2013)

- Current policy to obtain radiographic screening:
  - Emergent procedures without initial count
  - Incorrect sponge or instrument count
  - Liver transplant
  - Final abdominal closure on patients with repeated procedures
  - BMI > 40 with abdominal procedures
  - Surgical team member’s discretion

- On-call radiology resident will review films for quality
- Attending radiologist will provide the final interpretation and will come into the hospital at night if necessary
- Attending to Attending communication

- If a film is anticipated, please alert radiology resident at extension 44385 at least 30 minutes before the film will be necessary.

Obtaining Radiographs

- Remove all overlying objects from the surgical field.
- Obtain multiple views of the surgical field to ensure entire compartment is included in the radiographs.

Examples of Retained Surgical Items

View these pictures at xray.ufl.edu > Patient Care > Practice Guidelines