Preoperative Warming

On the ward (or in the accident and emergency department)

WHO IS AT RISK OF GETTING PERIOPERATIVE HYPOTHERMIA?

- Any patient undergoing surgery anticipated to require more than 30 minutes of anaesthesia time.
- Any patient undergoing anaesthesia anticipated to last less than 30 minutes who has:
- High blood pressure
- Diabetes
- Are undergoing major/ intermediate surgery
- Are at risk of heart

Temperature Monitoring:

- Ensure patient stays warm all the time and regularly check to make sure.
- Encourage patient to put on extra clothes (such as slippers, a dressing gown, a vest etc) to stay warm.
- Encourage patient to tell staff if they feel cold at any time.
- Measure and record a patient's temperature in the hour before they leave the ward or accident an emergency department.
- Actively warm patient if temperature is below 36°C or if patient is at high risk of perioperative hypothermia, they should be warmed immediately using a warming blanket (if available) or blankets from a warming cabinet.
- If temperature is 36°C or above, patient can be taken to theatre.
- All patients should be kept warm, during transfer to theatre to prevent any drop in core temperature.



Perioperative Warming Decision Guide

NO

Ensure patient stays warm and recheck temperature within the hour prior to transfer to theatre

complications during or after surgery

- Asthma
- Angina
- A temperature below 36°C before surgery
- Are having a combined regional and general anaesthetic.

Is the patient's core temperature below 36°C?

YES

Implement warming measures immediately and make contact with theatres for a clinical decision to be made prior to transfer Minimum temperature for transfer to theatre is 36°C *Unless a clinical decision has been made by the theatre team to transfer with a below 36°C temperature