

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

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.

