

CHRISTINE O. GREGOIRE  
Governor



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## *A Message from the Governor*

*January 15, 2009*

It has been estimated that preventable errors account for 30 percent of all health care costs. Given the current economic crisis, these are not dollars we can afford to waste. The health care system can do better, both in preventing needless suffering and in reducing costs. Washington State is leading the way in addressing this issue.

Over 40 hospitals across the state created the Surgical Care and Outcomes Assessment Program (SCOAP) to prevent errors in surgery, reduce unnecessary costs, and empower patients to get the best care. Many errors result from a lack of streamlined care and communication—checklists prevent these errors.

Starting January 15<sup>th</sup>, the SCOAP surgical checklist - preventing errors before they occur - will be rolling out across hospitals in Washington State. Sponsored by the Life Science Discovery Fund (LSDF) and coming from a broad coalition of health care stakeholders, the SCOAP checklist is a real example of the healthcare community working together to save lives and prevent unnecessary health care costs.

The Governor's office is proud to support the SCOAP surgical checklist initiative and encourages every hospital to participate. Through programs like the LSDF and SCOAP, we are helping to translate the best science into improved health for our community.

To find out more information about SCOAP, how to talk with your doctor about the SCOAP surgical checklist, and how to find a participating hospital near you, visit [www.scoap.org](http://www.scoap.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Chris Gregoire".

Christine O. Gregoire  
Governor

