

## **MISSING ITEM**

When surgery calls for an x-ray for a missing item, ask to see what item is missing. You will then x-ray the entire area of the body that the surgeon worked on, **plus take an additional x-ray of whatever they are missing**. So, if they are missing a needle or a sponge, ask for the same needle (it doesn't have to be opened) or a sponge (one dry and one wet). Then **during the day** call the file room to find out who the doc of the day is and contact the radiologist yourself, so you can explain the unique situation – leave call back number of the OR suite for the radiologist to notify the surgeon promptly of the results. **On off hours** refer to the department website to find out who the radiologist on call is.

If it is after an emergent case (rupture AAA or C-section), it is to make sure nothing was left behind. This is done since it is emergent and they do not take time to count instruments before the case. Ask the surgeon if everything is off from the patient/field. This is the only way to make sure that no items are still present.

*Reviewed 10/01/19*