



Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Toolkit

Activity C: ELC Prevention Collaboratives

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Outline



- **Background**
 - Impact
 - HHS Prevention Targets
 - Pathogenesis
 - Epidemiology
- **Prevention Strategies**
 - Core
 - Supplemental
- **Measurement**
 - Process
 - Outcome
- **Tools for Implementation/Resources/References**



Background: Impact



Burden-US

- 1.7 million healthcare-associated infections (HAI) in US hospitals (2002)
- ~300,000 SSIs/yr (17% of all HAI; second to UTI)
- 2%-5% of patients undergoing inpatient surgery

Mortality

- 3 % mortality
- 2-11 times higher risk of death
- 75% of deaths among patients with SSI are directly attributable to SSI

Morbidity

- long-term disabilities



Background: Impact



Length of Hospital Stay

- ~7-10 additional postoperative hospital days

Cost

- \$3000-\$29,000/SSI depending on procedure & pathogen
- Up to \$10 billion annually
- Most estimates are based on inpatient costs at time of index operation and do not account for the additional costs of rehospitalization, post-discharge outpatient expenses, and long term disabilities



Background: HHS Prevention Targets

- **Median deep incision and organ space infection rate for each procedure/risk group will be at or below the current NHSN 25th percentile**
 - Outcome - Deep incision and organ space infection rates using NHSN definitions (SCIP procedures)
- **95% adherence rates to each SCIP/NQF infection process measure**
 - Process - Adherence to SCIP/NQF infection process measures

<http://www.hhs.gov/ophs/initiatives/hai/prevtargets.html>



Background: Pathogenesis
Pathogen Sources



Endogenous

- Patient flora
 - skin
 - mucous membranes
 - GI tract
- Seeding from a distant focus of infection



Background: Pathogenesis

Pathogen Sources



Exogenous

- Surgical Personnel (surgeon and team)
 - Soiled attire
 - Breaks in aseptic technique
 - Inadequate hand hygiene
- OR physical environment and ventilation
- Tools, equipment, materials brought to the operative field



Background: Pathogenesis Organisms Causing SSI January 2006-October 2007

<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	30.0%
Coagulase-negative staphylococci	13.7%
Enterococcus spp.	11.2%
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	9.6%
<i>Pseudomonas aeruginosa</i>	5.6%
Enterobacter spp	4.2%
<i>Klebsiella pneumoniae</i>	3.0%
Candida spp.	2.0%
<i>Klebsiella oxytoca</i>	0.7%
<i>Acinetobacter baumannii</i>	0.6%

N=7,025

Hidron AI, et.al., Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2008;29:996-1011

Hidron AI et.al., Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 2009;30:107-107(ERRATUM)



Background: Epidemiology Emerging Challenges

Challenges in detecting SSIs

- Lack of standardized methods for post-discharge/outpatient surveillance
 - Increased number of outpatient surgeries
 - Shorter postoperative inpatient stays

Antimicrobial Prophylaxis

- Increasing trend toward resistant organism may undermine the effectiveness of existing recommendations for antimicrobial prophylaxis



Background: Epidemiology

Important Modifiable Risk Factors

- Antimicrobial prophylaxis
 - Inappropriate choice (procedure specific)
 - Improper timing (pre-incision dose)
 - Inadequate dose based on body mass index, procedures >3h, or increased blood loss
- Skin or site preparation ineffective
 - Removal of hair with razors
- Colorectal procedures
 - Inadequate bowel prep/antibiotics
 - Improper intraoperative temperature regulation



Background: Epidemiology Additional Modifiable Risk Factors

- Excessive OR traffic
- Inadequate wound dressing protocol
- Improper glucose control
- Colonization with preexisting microorganisms
- Inadequate intraoperative oxygen levels



Prevention Strategies

- **Core Strategies**

- High levels of scientific evidence
- Demonstrated feasibility

- **Supplemental Strategies**

- Some scientific evidence
- Variable levels of feasibility

*The Collaborative should at a minimum include core prevention strategies. Supplemental prevention strategies also may be utilized. Hospitals should not be excluded from participation if they already have ongoing interventions using supplemental prevention strategies. Project coordinators should carefully track which prevention strategies are being utilized by participating facilities.



Prevention Strategies: Core Preoperative Measures

Administer antimicrobial prophylaxis in accordance with evidence based standards and guidelines

- Administer within 1 hour prior to incision
 - 2hr for vancomycin and fluoroquinolones
- Select appropriate agents on basis of
 - Surgical procedure
 - Most common SSI pathogens for the procedure
 - Published recommendations



Prevention Strategies: Core Preoperative Measures

- **Remote infections**
 - Identify and treat before elective operation
 - Postpone operation until infection has resolved
- **Do not remove hair at the operative site unless it will interfere with the operation; do not use razors**
 - If necessary, remove by clipping or by use of a depilatory agent



Prevention Strategies: Core



Preoperative Measures (continued)

- **Skin Prep**
 - Use appropriate antiseptic agent and technique for skin preparation
- **Maintain immediate postoperative normothermia**
- **Colorectal surgery patients**
 - Mechanically prepare the colon (Enemas, cathartic agents)
 - Administer non-absorbable oral antimicrobial agents in divided doses on the day before the operation



Prevention Strategies: Core Intraoperative Measures



- **Operating Room (OR) Traffic**
 - Keep OR doors closed during surgery except as needed for passage of equipment, personnel, and the patient



Prevention Strategies: Core Postoperative Measures



- **Surgical Wound Dressing**
 - Protect primary closure incisions with sterile dressing for 24-48 hrs post-op
- **Control blood glucose level during the immediate post-operative period (cardiac)**
 - Measure blood glucose level at 6AM on POD#1 and #2 with procedure day = POD#0
 - Maintain post-op blood glucose level at <200mg/dL
- **Discontinue antibiotics within 24hrs after surgery end time (48hrs for cardiac)**



Prevention Strategies: Supplemental Preoperative



- Nasal screen and decolonize only *Staphylococcus aureus* carriers undergoing elective cardiac and other procedures (i.e., orthopaedic, neurosurgery procedures with implants) with preoperative mupirocin therapy
- Screen preoperative blood glucose levels and maintain tight glucose control POD#1 and POD#2 in patients undergoing select elective procedures (e.g., arthroplasties, spinal fusions)



Prevention Strategies: Supplemental Perioperative



- Redose antibiotic at the 3 hr interval in procedures with duration >3hrs (* see exceptions to this recommendation)
- Adjust antimicrobial prophylaxis dose for obese patients (body mass index >30)
- Use at least 50% fraction of inspired oxygen intraoperatively and immediately postoperatively in select procedure(s)

*Engelman R, et al. The Society of Thoracic Surgeons Practice Guideline Series: Antibiotic Prophylaxis in Cardiac Surgery, Part II: Antibiotic Choice. Ann Thor Surg 2007;83:1569-76



Prevention Strategies: Supplemental Postoperative



- Feedback of surgeon specific infection rates.



Measurement: Process Measures



Quality Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Appropriate antibiotic choice	Number of patients who received the appropriate prophylactic antibiotic	All patients for whom prophylactic antibiotics are indicated
Appropriate timing of prophylactic antibiotics	Number of patients who received the prophylactic antibiotic within 1hr prior to incision (2hr: Vancomycin or Fluoroquinolones)	All patients for whom prophylactic antibiotics are indicated
Appropriate discontinuation of antibiotics	Number of patients who received prophylactic antibiotics and had them discontinued in 24 h (48h cardiac)	All patients who received prophylactic antibiotics



Measurement: Process Measures (continued)



Quality Indicator	Numerator	Denominator
Appropriate hair removal	Number of patients who did not have hair removed or who had hair removed with clippers	All surgical patients
Normothermia	Number of patients with postoperative temperature $\geq 36.0^{\circ}\text{C}$	All surgical patients
Glucose control	Number of cardiac surgery patients with glucose control at 6AM POD1 and POD2 (operation = POD0)	Patients undergoing cardiac surgery



Measurement: Outcome Measures **SSI Rate**



Patients with SSI after selected operations X100
Total # of selected operations performed

- Crude, unadjusted rate
- Can lead to erroneous conclusions regarding SSI risk by institution and/or surgeon
- NOT for reporting or inter-hospital comparisons



Measurement: Outcome Measures Risk Adjustment (1) NNIS Risk Index

Score to predict risk of acquiring SSI

- Widely used-targeted at surveillance
- Operation-specific
- Allows monitoring of trends
- Facilitates comparison
 - facility vs. national

Culver DH, Horan TC, Gaines RP. Surgical infection rates by wound class, operative procedure, patient risk index. Am J Med;1991:152S-157S.



Measurement: Outcome Measures Risk Adjustment (2) NNIS Risk Index



- Focus on high volume operations
- Employs Risk Stratification
 - American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) score (3, 4, or 5)
 - Wound Classification (contaminated or dirty)
 - Duration of Procedure (over T [proc specific] hours)
- Does not include many patient & perioperative related SSI risk factors
- Increased NNIS Risk index = Increased risk of SSI

Culver DH, Horan TC, Gaines RP. Surgical infection rates by wound class, operative procedure, patient risk index. Am J Med;1991:152S-157S.



Measurement: Outcome Measures Risk Adjustment (2)

Standardized Incidence Ratio - SIR

$$\text{SIR} = \frac{\text{Observed \# SSI}}{\text{Expected \# SSI}}$$

Expected # SSI =

operations* in each proc risk category X NNIS rate
100

- Value >1.0 = more SSIs than expected
- Helps better identify outliers
- Will be utilized for comparison within NHSN in 2010

*Performed by a surgeon, a surgical subspecialty service or a hospital
Detailed explanation and examples in: Edwards JR, Horan TC. Risk-adjusted Comparisons.
In: Carrico R, ed. APIC Text of Infection Control and Epidemiology, 3rd ed. Washington DC
APIC 2009.Chapter 7, p.1-7.



Evaluation Considerations

- **Assess baseline policies and procedures**
- **Areas to consider**
 - **Surveillance**
 - **Prevention strategies**
 - **Measurement**
- **Coordinator should track new policies/practices implemented during collaboration**

Standardized questions forthcoming



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References

SSI Bundles



- Canadian Getting Started Kit:
<http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca/EN/Interventions/SSI/Pages/ask.aspx> (Select SSI Getting Started Kit)
- IHI:
<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Programs/Campaign/SSI.htm>
(Select “Power Point Presentation with Facilitator Notes)”) <http://www.100liveswashington.org/resources/SSI-summary.pdf>



References

SSI Bundles



- Australian:
http://www.health.vic.gov.au/sss1/downloads/prev_surgical.pdf
- Scottish:
<http://www.hps.scot.nhs.uk/haic/ic/SSIPreventionBundle.aspx>



Resources for Implementation

WHO Surgical Safety Checklist



Surgical Safety Checklist



World Health
Organization

Patient Safety
A World Alliance for Safer Healthcare

Before induction of anaesthesia

(with at least nurse and anaesthetist)

Has the patient confirmed his/her identity, site, procedure, and consent?

Yes

Is the site marked?

Yes

Not applicable

Is the anaesthesia machine and medication check complete?

Yes

Is the pulse oximeter on the patient and functioning?

Yes

Does the patient have a:

Known allergy?

No

Yes

Difficult airway or aspiration risk?

No

Yes, and equipment/assistance available

Risk of >500ml blood loss (7ml/kg in children)?

No

Yes, and two IVs/central access and fluids planned

Before skin incision

(with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

Confirm all team members have introduced themselves by name and role.

Confirm the patient's name, procedure, and where the incision will be made.

Has antibiotic prophylaxis been given within the last 60 minutes?

Yes

Not applicable

Anticipated Critical Events

To Surgeon:

What are the critical or non-routine steps?

How long will the case take?

What is the anticipated blood loss?

To Anaesthetist:

Are there any patient-specific concerns?

To Nursing Team:

Has sterility (including indicator results) been confirmed?

Are there equipment issues or any concerns?

Is essential imaging displayed?

Yes

Not applicable

Before patient leaves operating room

(with nurse, anaesthetist and surgeon)

Nurse Verbally Confirms:

The name of the procedure

Completion of instrument, sponge and needle counts

Specimen labelling (read specimen labels aloud, including patient name)

Whether there are any equipment problems to be addressed

To Surgeon, Anaesthetist and Nurse:

What are the key concerns for recovery and management of this patient?

This checklist is not intended to be comprehensive. Additions and modifications to fit local practice are encouraged.

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World Health Organization. Safe Surgery Saves Lives

<http://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery/en/> Accessed 19 Nov 2009

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