

Surgical Site Infection (SSI)

What

SSI – Prevention is Key!

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) defines SSI as “an infection that occurs after surgery in the part of the body where the surgery took place.” SSIs are the most common healthcare-associated infection, accounting for 31% of inpatient HAIs.¹ The majority of SSIs are preventable.²



¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/9pscscsscurrent.pdf>

² <http://www.ssipllc.com/blog-posts/2016/2/10/the-cost-of-surgical-site-infection-1>

Impact

Can You Afford to Ignore SSIs?²

7-10

- Additional postop care days potentially needed for treatment of SSI

\$11K - \$35K

- Increased cost for treatment of SSI with ZERO reimbursement

\$0.00

- Cost of simple measures such as proper hand-washing; and proper skin preparation, are relatively inexpensive compared to the cost of SSIs



Requirement

- Implement evidence-based practices for preventing surgical site infections
- TJC National Patient Safety Goal 07.05.01



- Report SSIs to the CDC’s National Healthcare Safety Network



Action

Pathway to Excellence

- ENGAGE**
 - Encourage collaboration between all members of the perioperative team to promote a culture of safety
 - Communicate results of SSI trends on a regular basis
- EDUCATE**
 - Educate staff upon hire, and on an ongoing basis to best practices and the Surgical Care Improvement Program measures
- EXECUTE**
 - Implement policies/procedures which are designed to reduce SSIs
- EVALUATE**
 - Audit for adherence to evidence based practice
 - Monitor for trends in positive bacterial cultures
 - Assess adherence to perioperative best practices (including hand-washing)

How Do You Compare?

Lack of adherence to evidence-based guidelines is the primary finding identified by Crowe independent SSI assessments. This includes performance improvement opportunities in both preop and intraoperative settings, such as Staphylococcus Aureus screening and proper skin antisepsis. Increasing adherence to evidence-based guidelines can assist healthcare organizations enhance patient safety and optimize net revenue related to SSIs.

Crowe Clinical Risk Services: Linking the dimensions of healthcare delivery to achieve excellence. To learn how a clinical assessment or clinical risk project can support your performance excellence efforts, please contact:

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