

Overview: NPSG 07.05.01 Implement evidence-based practices for preventing surgical site infections

Why this standard is important to patient safety

Patients continue to acquire health care–associated infections at an alarming rate. Risks and patient populations, however, differ between hospitals. Therefore, prevention and control strategies must be tailored to the specific needs of each hospital based on its risk assessment. The elements of performance for this requirement are designed to help reduce or prevent health surgical site infections.

Elements of Performance

1. Educate staff and licensed independent practitioners involved in surgical procedures about surgical site infections and the importance of prevention. Education occurs upon hire, annually thereafter, and when involvement in surgical procedures is added to an individual's job responsibilities.
2. Educate patients, and their families as needed, who are undergoing a surgical procedure about surgical site infection prevention.
3. Implement policies and practices aimed at reducing the risk of surgical site infections. These policies and practices meet regulatory requirements and are aligned with evidence-based guidelines (for example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and/or professional organization guidelines).
4. As part of the effort to reduce surgical site infections:
 - Conduct periodic risk assessments for surgical site infections in a time frame determined by the hospital.
 - Select surgical site infection measures using best practices or evidence-based guidelines.
 - Monitor compliance with best practices or evidence-based guidelines.
 - Evaluate the effectiveness of prevention efforts.

Note: Surveillance may be targeted to certain procedures based on the hospital's risk assessment.

5. Measure surgical site infection rates for the first 30 days following procedures that do not involve inserting implantable devices and for the first year following procedures involving implantable devices. The hospital's measurement strategies follow evidence-based guidelines.

Note: Surveillance may be targeted to certain procedures based on the hospital's risk assessment.

6. Provide process and outcome (for example, surgical site infection rate) measure results to key stakeholders.
 7. Administer antimicrobial agents for prophylaxis for a particular procedure or disease according to methods cited in scientific literature or endorsed by professional organizations. *
- Footnote *: A limited number of National Patient Safety Goals contain requirements for practices that reflect current science and medical knowledge. In these cases, the element of performance refers to a practice that is cited in scientific literature or endorsed by professional organizations. This means that the practice used by the hospital must be validated by an authoritative source. The authoritative source may be a study published in a peer-reviewed journal that clearly demonstrates the efficacy of that practice or endorsement of the practice by a professional

organization(s) and/or a government agency(ies). It is not acceptable to follow a practice that is not supported by evidence or wide-spread consensus. During the on-site survey, surveyors will explore the source of the practices the hospital follows.

8. When hair removal is necessary, use a method that is cited in scientific literature or endorsed by professional organizations.