

Overview: NPSG 07.05.01 Implement evidenced-based practices for preventing 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 or 90 days following surgical procedures based on National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) procedural codes. The hospital's measurement strategies follow evidence-based guidelines.
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.
8. When hair removal is necessary, use a method that is cited in scientific literature or endorsed by professional organizations