



**World Health  
Organization**

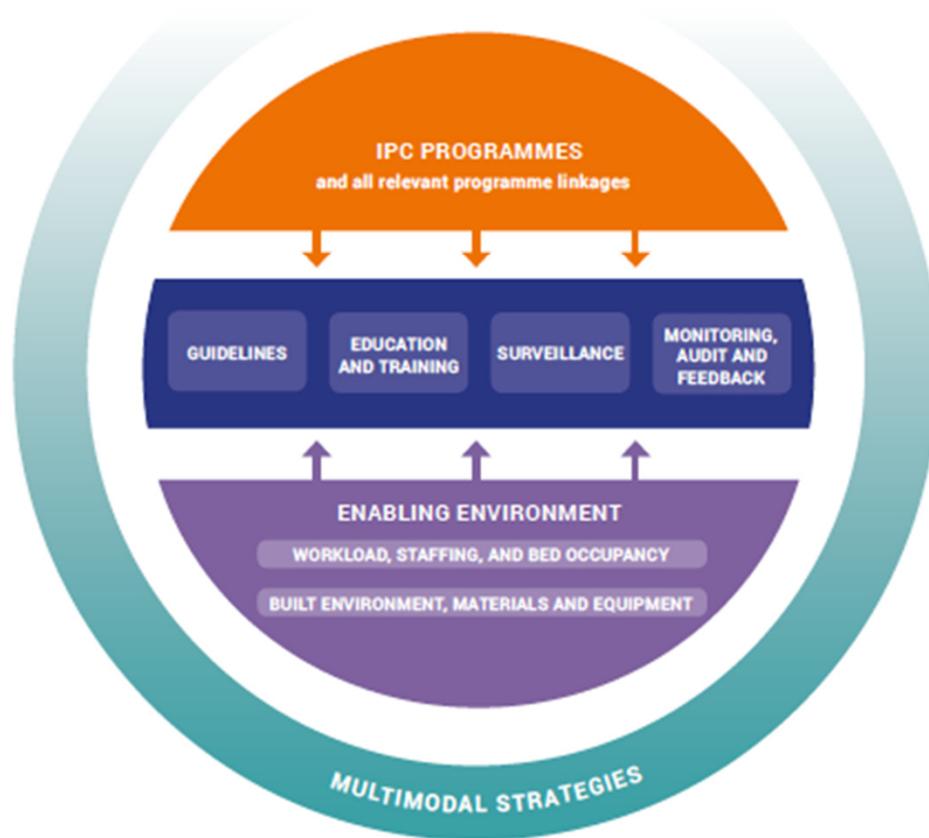
**WHO**

**Guidelines on the prevention  
of surgical site infections**

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# WHO core components for effective IPC programmes



- **8 Core components**
  - 8 Facility level
  - 6 National level
- 11 evidence\*-based recommendations
- 3 good practice statements

- \* Evidence from LMICs:
- 7 high-quality studies
  - 22 lower quality

R= recommendation; GPS: good practice statement



1

# Awareness of the problem

## STOP INFECTIONS AFTER SURGERY

### WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Patients develop infections when **bacteria get into incisions made during surgery**. These affect patients in both...

LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES	HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES
<p>More than 1 in 10 people who have surgery in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) get surgical site infections (SSIs)</p> <p>People's risk of SSI in LMICs is <b>3 TO 5 TIMES HIGHER</b> than in high-income countries</p>	<p>In Europe, SSIs affect more than <b>500 000 PEOPLE</b> per year costing up to <b>€ 19 BILLION</b></p> <p>Around 1% of people who have surgery in the USA get an SSI</p>
<p>Up to 1 in 5 women in Africa who deliver their baby by caesarean section get a wound infection</p>	<p>In the USA, SSIs contribute to patients spending more than <b>400 000 extra days</b> in hospital, costing <b>US\$ 10 BILLION</b> per year</p>
<p>SSIs can be caused by bacteria that are resistant to commonly-used antibiotics</p>	<p>SSIs threaten the lives of millions of surgical patients each year and contribute to the spread of antibiotic resistance</p>

# STOP INFECTIONS AFTER SURGERY

## WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?

Patients develop infections when **bacteria get into incisions made during surgery**. These affect patients in both...

1

### LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



More than 1 in 10 people who have surgery in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) get surgical site infections (SSIs)

People's risk of SSI in LMICs is **3 TO 5 TIMES HIGHER** than in high-income countries



Up to 1 in 5 women in Africa who deliver their baby by caesarean section get a wound infection



SSIs can be caused by bacteria that are **resistant to commonly-used antibiotics**



SSIs threaten the lives of **millions** of surgical patients **each year** and contribute to the spread of **antibiotic resistance**

### HIGH-INCOME COUNTRIES



In Europe, SSIs affect more than **500 000 PEOPLE** per year costing up to **€ 19 BILLION**

Around 1% of people who have surgery in the USA get an SSI



In the USA, SSIs contribute to patients spending more than **400 000 extra days** in hospital, costing **US\$ 10 BILLION** per year

# SSI epidemiology and burden

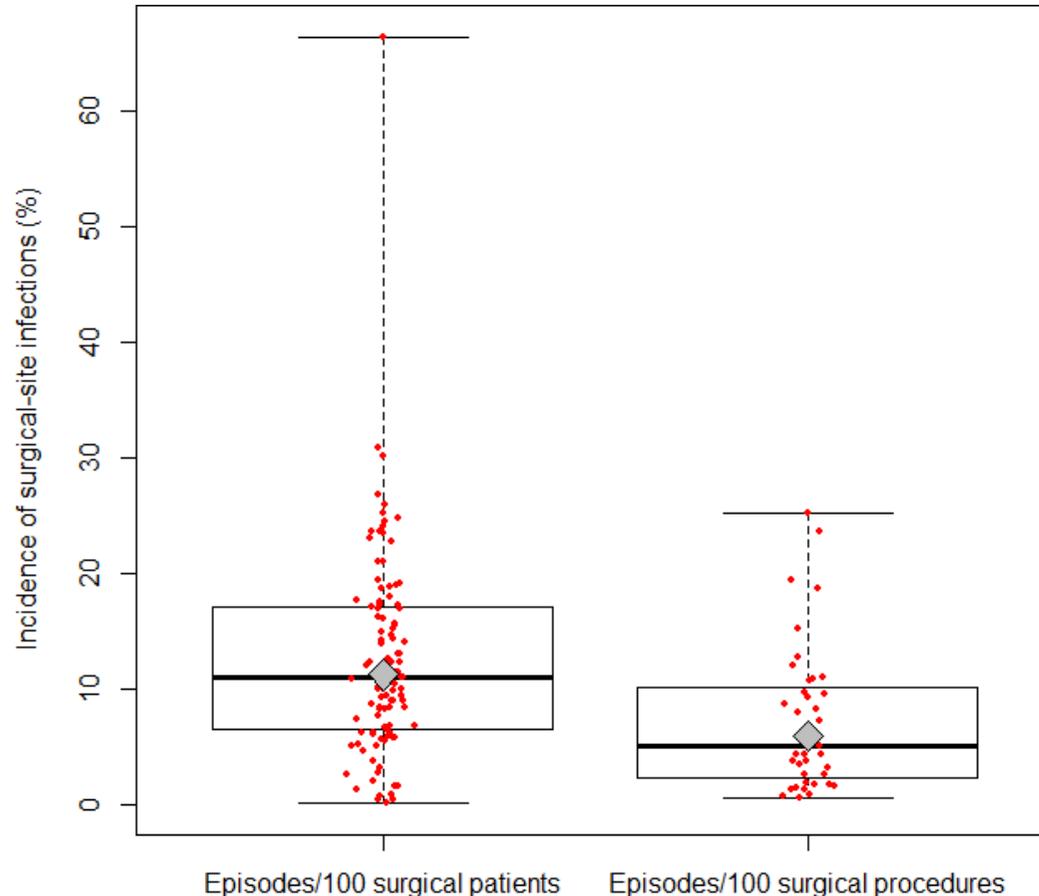


- **Second and third most frequent type of HAI in Europe and the USA**
- Most frequent type of HAI on admission (67% in the USA, 33% in Europe)
  - **SSI incidence** (per 100 procedures)
    - USA 2014: 1.9%
    - **Europe 2013–14: 0.6–9.5%**
      - **800 000 SSIs** leading to over **16 000 deaths, annually**
      - **EUR 1.5 billion-19 billion: total annual extra cost to health systems**
  - **AMR: 39–51%** of SSI pathogens are resistant to standard prophylactic antibiotics in the USA

## Sources:

- National and state healthcare-associated infections progress report. Atlanta (GA): National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2016 (<http://www.cdc.gov/HAI/pdfs/progressreport/hai-progress-report.pdf>, accessed 10 August 2016).
- ECDC. Annual epidemiological report 2016 – surgical site infections. Stockholm: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; 2016 <https://ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications-data/surgical-site-infections-annual-epidemiological-report-2016-2014-data>
- Cassini A. et al. "Burden of Six Healthcare-Associated Infections on European Population Health: Estimating Incidence-Based Disability-Adjusted Life Years through a Population Prevalence-Based Modelling Study", PLoS Med, Vol. 13, pp. 1-16, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1371/journal.pmed.1002150>
- Badia, J. et al. (2017), "Impact of surgical site infection on healthcare costs and patient outcomes: a systematic review in six European countries", J Hosp Infect 2017; 96: 1-15, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2017.03.004>
- Suetens C et al. Prevalence of healthcare-associated infections, estimated incidence and composite antimicrobial resistance index in acute care hospitals and long-term care facilities: results from two European point prevalence surveys 2016 to 2017. Euro Surveill. 2018;23(46):pii=1800516. <https://doi.org/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2018.23.46.1800516>

# SSI incidence in LMICs (1995–2015, 107 studies)



SSI pooled incidence in LMICs in:  
– caesarean sections:

11.7%\* (95% CI: 9.1–14.8)

– prosthetic orthopaedic surgery:

9.7%\*\* (95% CI: 5.3–15.3)

\* in Europe: 2.7%

\*\* in Europe: 0.7% (knee prosthesis) to  
1.0% (hip prosthesis)

**Pooled cumulative incidence:** 11.2% per 100 surgical patients (95% CI: 9.7–12.8)  
5.9 per 100 surgical procedures (95% CI: 4.8–7.1)  
 **$I^2 = 99.8\%$**

Source: updated systematic review – WHO unpublished data, 2017.

# Impact of increasing AMR on SSI



- Scenarios of 10% and 100% reduction in the effectiveness of surgical antibiotic prophylaxis:
  - From 44 000 to 439 000 additional postoperative infections would occur each year in the EU (increases of 5% and 50% relative to current estimates, respectively)
- 307 000 post-intervention deaths would occur each year if no effective antimicrobial treatment was available

- OECD (2018), *Stemming the Superbug Tide: Just A Few Dollars More*, OECD Publishing, Paris. <https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264307599-en>
- Badia, J. et al. (2017), "Impact of surgical site infection on healthcare costs and patient outcomes: a systematic review in six European countries", *J Hosp Infect* 2017; 96: 1-15, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.jhin.2017.03.004>
- Surveillance of surgical site infections and prevention indicators in European hospitals HAI-Net SSI protocol, version 2.2 Surveillance of surgical site infections and prevention indicators in European hospitals, ECDC, <http://dx.doi.org/10.2900/260119>



**1**

**Awareness of the  
problem**

**2**

**Evidence-based  
recommendations**

# WHO Guidelines, updated 2018



## GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION



### Surgical site infections 1

#### New WHO recommendations on preoperative measures for surgical site infection prevention: an evidence-based global perspective

Benedetta Alagaraci, Peter Blichhoff, Sujir de Jonge, N Zeynep Kiliçoglu, Basim Zayed, Quincy M Gomes, Maheshwari Abhis, Jayraj J Arora, Sarah Gani, Mandarvan Eijan, Marjia A Boermeester, Matthias Egger, Jan Ekluytman, Didier Pittet, Joseph S Salerniki, and the WHO Guidelines Development Group\*

Surgical site infections (SSIs) are among the most preventable health-care-associated infections and are a substantial burden to health-care systems and service payers worldwide in terms of patient morbidity, mortality, and additional costs. SSI prevention is complex and requires the integration of a range of measures before, during, and after surgery. No international guidelines are available. National guidelines have been identified based guidance, and the need for standard of evidence-based recommendations for its benefits and harms, the evidence quality, the basis of systematic literature reviews preventive measures.

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Series



Launched Online November 2, 2018  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s13075-018-1010-9

### Surgical site infections 2

#### New WHO recommendations on intraoperative and postoperative measures for surgical site infection prevention: an evidence-based global perspective

Benedetta Alagaraci, Basim Zayed, Peter Blichhoff, N Zeynep Kiliçoglu, Stephen de Jonge, Quincy M Gomes, Sarah Gani, Ekin H Yilmaz, Maheshwari Abhis, Marjia A Boermeester, Matthias Egger, Jan Ekluytman, Sarah Gani, Joseph S Salerniki, and the WHO Guidelines Development Group\*

Surgical site infections (SSIs) are the most common health-care-associated infections in developing countries and also represent a substantial epidemiological burden in high-income countries. The prevention of these infections is complex and requires the integration of a range of preventive measures before, during, and after surgery. No international guidelines are available and inconsistencies in the interpretation of evidence and recommendations in national guidelines have been identified. Considering the prevention of SSIs as a priority for patient safety, WHO has developed based and expert consensus-based recommendations on the basis of an extensive list of preventive measures. In this Review, 16 recommendations specific to the intraoperative and postoperative periods. The WHO experts were developed with a global perspective and they take into account the balance between benefits and harms, its quality level, cost and resource use implications, and patient values and preferences.

**Introduction**  
Surgical site infections (SSIs) are largely preventable, but they represent a considerable burden for health-care systems, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries. For these reasons, and the fact that no general set of international recommendations exists, WHO initiated the development of evidence-based global guidelines for the prevention of SSIs. A panel of international experts developed recommendations on the basis of predetermined research questions and the results of related systematic literature reviews, the description of the intended audience for these recommendations, the methods used, and the first group of recommendations regarding preoperative preventive measures are provided in paper 1 of this series, which should be read in conjunction with this Review. We present here the recommendations (table) to be applied in the intraoperative and postoperative periods. Important topics such as asepsis in the operating room and sterilisation are not mentioned because they were not the object of formal recommendations, but they are included and summarily reviewed in the WHO guidelines, as cornerstones of SSI prevention.

**Recommendation 1: perioperative oxygenation**  
The panel recommends that adult patients undergoing general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation for surgical procedures should receive an 80% fraction of inspired oxygen (FIO<sub>2</sub>) intraoperatively and, if feasible, in the immediate postoperative period for 2-6 h, to reduce the risk of SSI (strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence). Adequate surgical site tissue oxygenation is thought to have a role in preventing SSIs. A high partial pressure of oxygen in the blood achieved through the administration of high-concentration oxygen (hyperoxia) compared with a lower oxygen tension than is in room-air and might reduce oxidative neutrophils. We did a systematic review to effect of high FIO<sub>2</sub> (80%) compared with low (30-35%) for the prevention of SSI. We identified 13 randomised controlled trials comparing the perioperative administration of high 80-35% FIO<sub>2</sub> in adults. We did a meta-analysis including studies in which patients underwent anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation and ventilation. Ventilation control (and the actual administration of FIO<sub>2</sub>) with a closed-circuit in mechanical ventilation was considered different interventions from mechanical ventilation. Furthermore, a meta-regression analysis showed type of anaesthesia independently modified of hyperoxygenation. The 11 RCTs included meta-analysis showed that increased period is beneficial in reducing SSI compared with perioperative FIO<sub>2</sub> (odds ratio [OR], 0.72; 95% CI, 0.52-0.96). The quality of the evidence was moderate.

On the basis of this evidence, patients in general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation for surgical procedures should receive 80% FIO<sub>2</sub> intraoperatively and, if feasible, for 2-6 h in the postoperative period. The expert panel notes benefits of this intervention can be observed implemented by both ventilation during the and using a high-flow mask in the postoperative period (figure). The benefits

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- 28 systematic reviews & meta-analyses
- 29 recommendations
- 30 core chapters

Series



Launched Online November 2, 2018  
http://dx.doi.org/10.1186/s13075-018-1010-9

## Decontamination and Reprocessing of Medical Devices for Health-care Facilities



<http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/250680/1/9789241549882-eng.pdf?ua=1>  
<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/ssi-web-appendices/en/>

# Methods for recommendation development (1)



## Development of recommendations

- Recommendations were based on systematic reviews and using the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach, based on scientific evidence and expert consensus/country experience.
- The decision-making process involved expert discussion about the evidence of effectiveness of the preventive measure, any harms it may cause, resource implications of implementation and views of patients and professionals.

# Methods for recommendation development (2)



## Strength of recommendations – two types

- “Strong” – the expert panel was confident that benefits outweighed risks, that the measure was considered to be adaptable for implementation in most (if not all) situations and that patients should receive the intervention as standard.
- “Conditional” – the expert panel considered that the benefits of intervention probably outweighed the risks or that a more structured decision-making process should be undertaken, based on stakeholder consultation and involvement of patients and health care professionals.

# SSI prevention throughout the surgical patient journey

**DO THE RIGHT THING AT THE RIGHT TIME TO STOP SURGICAL SITE INFECTION**  
Recommendations for safe surgical care

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM**

**PREOPERATIVE**  
PATIENT, CLINICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF AND SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

**INTRAOPERATIVE**  
SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

**POSTOPERATIVE**  
SURGICAL TEAM, CLINICAL STAFF ACTIONS

The infographic is divided into three main stages, each with a list of actions and their supporters:

- Preoperative:** Includes actions like patient assessment, skin preparation, and antibiotic prophylaxis. Supporters include the patient, clinical staff, and surgical team.
- Intraoperative:** Includes actions like maintaining normothermia, normotension, and normoxia, as well as antibiotic prophylaxis and surgical site closure. Supporters include the surgical team and the IPC team.
- Postoperative:** Includes actions like pain management, wound care, and patient education. Supporters include the surgical team, clinical staff, and the IPC team.

**The WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infection outline recommendations for safe surgical care that can significantly reduce the risk of surgical site infection.**

Wherever a routine surgical procedure is performed, actions should be taken by patients and health workers to translate these recommendations into practice. Applying all recommendations will improve the quality of care and patient safety and reduce the financial burden.

In addition to surgical hand preparation, hand hygiene is a key action (the 5 Moments for hand hygiene) apply to pre-, in- and postoperative periods.

Only the right human and financial resources, with senior administrative commitment, can ensure these actions happen every time at the right time.

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/reminders-advocacy/en/>

# WHO recommendations for SSI prevention (1)



**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM**

### PREOPERATIVE PERIOD

PATIENT, CLINICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF AND SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

	ACTION	SUPPORTED BY
	Patient bathes or showers prior to surgery with either plain or antimicrobial soap	PATIENT SURGICAL TEAM AT PREOPERATIVE CONSULTATION
	Use 2% mupirocin decolonization in known nasal carriers of <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> in cardiac and orthopaedic surgery (consider for other surgeries)	WARD NURSE DOCTOR PHARMACY
	Do NOT remove patient hair, or if absolutely necessary, remove with a clipper, do not shave	SURGICAL TEAM PATIENT INFORMATION AND EDUCATION
	Administer surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in the 120 minutes preceding surgical incision (depending on the type of operation and the half life of the antibiotic)	ANAESTHETIST (OR OTHER IN SURGICAL TEAM) IPC TEAM/PHARMACY
	Prepare hands for surgery by scrubbing, using the correct technique with a suitable antimicrobial soap and water OR an alcohol-based handrub (before donning sterile gloves)	SURGEON PHARMACY/PROCUREMENT

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM**

### PREOPERATIVE PERIOD

PATIENT, CLINICAL AND SUPPORT STAFF AND SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

	ACTION	SUPPORTED BY
	Carry out mechanical bowel preparation always combined with administering preoperative oral antibiotics in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery	SURGICAL TEAM PHARMACY/PROCUREMENT
	Consider administering oral or enteral multiple nutrient-enhanced formulas in underweight patients (undergoing major surgical operations)	SURGICAL TEAM PHARMACY/PROCUREMENT AND CLINICAL STAFF
	Do NOT discontinue immunosuppressive medication	SURGICAL AND WARD TEAM PHARMACY AND CLINICAL STAFF
	Clean and sterilize/decontaminate surgical instruments and other equipment	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT/STERILIZATION UNIT
	Clean and prepare operating room environment	CLEANING STAFF SURGICAL TEAM

# WHO recommendations for SSI prevention (2)



**INTRAOPERATIVE PERIOD**  
SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM**

ACTION	SUPPORTED BY
<b>Do NOT use laminar airflow ventilation systems</b> <i>(not beneficial for patients undergoing total arthroplasty surgery)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT/ESTATES AND MAINTENANCE STAFF
<b>Use either disposable sterile non-woven or reusable sterile woven drapes and surgical gowns</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT/STERILIZATION UNIT
<b>Do NOT use plastic adhesive incise drapes</b> <i>(neither those with nor those without antimicrobial properties)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Use alcohol-based solution containing chlorhexidine gluconate for skin preparation</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PHARMACY/PROCUREMENT
<b>Do NOT use antimicrobial sealants after surgical site skin preparation</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Administer 80% fraction of inspired oxygen (FIO<sub>2</sub>)</b> <i>(in adults undergoing general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM ESTATES AND MAINTENANCE STAFF
<b>Consider using a warming device</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Consider using a protocol for intensive blood glucose control</b> <i>(for both diabetic and non-diabetic adult patients)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM CLINICAL STAFF

**INTRAOPERATIVE PERIOD**  
SURGICAL TEAM ACTIONS

**INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM**

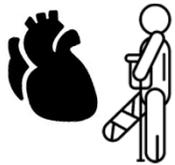
ACTION	SUPPORTED BY
<b>Consider using goal-directed therapy</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Consider irrigating incisional wound with an aqueous povidone iodine solution before closure</b> <i>(in clean and clean-contaminated wounds)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Do NOT perform antibiotic wound irrigation</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Consider using wound protector devices</b> <i>(in clean-contaminated, contaminated and dirty abdominal procedures)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Consider prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy</b> <i>(primarily in closed surgical incisions in high-risk wounds)</i>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Consider using triclosan-coated sutures</b>	SURGICAL TEAM PROCUREMENT
<b>Maintain asepsis and discipline in the operating room</b>	SURGICAL TEAM CLINICAL STAFF

# WHO recommendations for SSI prevention (3)



		POSTOPERATIVE PERIOD <small>SURGICAL TEAM, CLINICAL STAFF ACTIONS</small>	
		ACTION	SUPPORTED BY
INFECTION PREVENTION AND CONTROL (IPC) TEAM		Do NOT prolong surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in the postoperative period	CLINICAL STAFF SURGEON PHARMACY AND POLICY (STOPPING DELIVERY)
		Do NOT continue surgical antibiotic prophylaxis due to the presence of a drain Remove wound drain when clinically indicated	SURGICAL TEAM AND CLINICAL STAFF ANTIBIOTIC POLICY IN PLACE
		Administer 80% FiO <sub>2</sub> for 2–6 hours post-op	WARD NURSE DOCTOR PRESCRIPTION (AND PROTOCOL IN PLACE), ESTATES/MAINTENANCE STAFF
		Evaluate and manage wound appropriately, including cleansing, dressing and care, according to the given wound situation	CLINICAL STAFF DOCTOR REVIEW
		Do NOT use advanced dressings of any sort (use standard dressings instead)	WARD NURSE PROCUREMENT AND SURGICAL TEAM

# WHO Recommendations for SSI Prevention for the Preoperative Period



Carriers' decolonisation with mupirocin



MBP with use of oral antibiotics



Hair removal



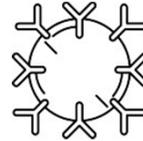
SAP optimal timing



Surgical hand preparation



Surgical site skin preparation



Perioperative immunosuppressive agents



Enhanced nutritional support



Preoperative bathing



Antimicrobial skin sealants



Strong recommendation



Conditional recommendation

MBP: mechanical bowel preparation

SAP: surgical antibiotic prophylaxis

<http://who.int/infection-prevention/publications/ssi-guidelines/en/>



World Health Organization

# WHO Recommendations for SSI Prevention for the Pre- and/or Intraoperative Period



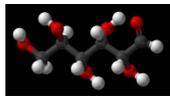
Peri-operative oxygenation



Normothermia



Normovolemia



Glucose control



(the right) drapes and gowns



Wound protection devices



Incisional wound irrigation



Prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy



Antimicrobial-coated sutures



Laminar flow



# WHO Recommendations for SSI Prevention for the Postoperative Period



Surgical antibiotic  
prophylaxis prolongation **X**



Advanced  
dressing **X**



Antimicrobial prophylaxis  
in presence of a drain **X**





**IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL**  
to support prevention of  
surgical site infections at the facility level  
**TURNING RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**INTO PRACTICE**

(INTERIM VERSION)



Build it



Teach it



Check it



Sell it



Live it



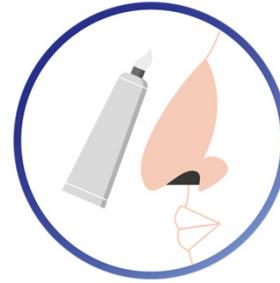
***Operational manual*** for  
the WHO SSI prevention  
recommendations.

This implementation  
manual is designed to be  
used by all persons  
concerned by the  
prevention of SSI in all  
health care settings,  
irrespective of the country.

***Launched in December***  
***2018***

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>

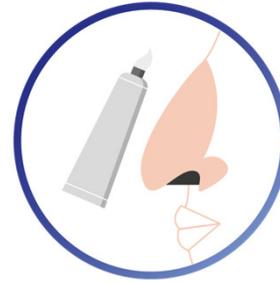
# Strong recommendation – preoperative measures: treatment of *S. aureus* nasal carriers (1)



**Patients undergoing cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgery with known nasal carriage of *S. aureus* should receive perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) body wash.**

**Consider** treating patients with known nasal carriage of *S. aureus* undergoing other types of surgery with perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash (associated conditional recommendation).

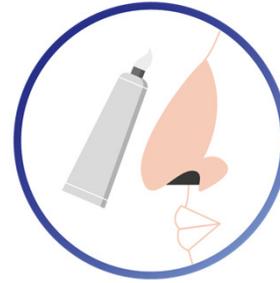
# Strong recommendation – preoperative measures: treatment of *S. aureus* nasal carriers (2)



## Why

- *S. aureus* is a leading HAI pathogen worldwide.
- *S. aureus* infections impose a high burden on the patient and the health system and are a known cause of postoperative wound infections.
- Nasal carriage of *S. aureus* is a risk factor for subsequent infection in a patient. It has been shown repeatedly that a large proportion of HAIs due to *S. aureus* originate from patients' own flora.

# Strong recommendation – preoperative measures: treatment of *S. aureus* nasal carriers (3)



## Notes

- Screening of patients for *S. aureus* varies between and within countries and is dependent on several factors including cost–effectiveness and local epidemiology.
- This recommendation only applies to facilities where screening (nasal swabs sent to a laboratory) for *S. aureus* is feasible, and may not apply to settings with high prevalence of mupirocin resistance.

# Practical points

- This recommendation can be applicable to pre- and perioperative periods (depending on local conditions for treatment).
- The application of mupirocin is usually **twice a day for 5–7 days** before surgery or from the day of hospital admission to the day of surgery.
- Ensure that potential allergic reactions to mupirocin are investigated and recorded and patient communications and record keeping regarding this treatment occur.

An infographic from the World Health Organization titled "SURGICAL SITE INFECTION PREVENTION Key facts on decolonization of nasal carriers of Staphylococcus aureus". It is divided into two main sections: "THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW" and "WHAT should be done?".

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
What does the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend?

The 2016 WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections recommend that patients with known nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* undergoing:

- cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgery** should be decolonized using intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) body wash (strong recommendation).
- other types of surgery** - treatment with intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash **may be considered** (conditional recommendation).

This recommendation applies to facilities where screening for *S. aureus* is feasible and may not apply to settings with a high prevalence of mupirocin resistance. Based on the lack of evidence, this recommendation is **not** applicable to paediatric patients.

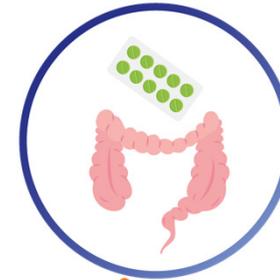
**WHAT should be done?**

- Involve patients** and ask for their collaboration and compliance with this recommendation as part of their care delivery by providing instructions:
  - Outpatients: provide clear instructions on how to correctly administer intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment and, if advised locally, to perform a CHG body wash before the operation (for more detailed information, see below "When should the recommendation be applied?"). If used, CHG 2-4% soap body wash should be applied in combination with clean, running water.
  - Inpatients: the same instructions for patients apply as above or procedures can be supported by clinical staff.
- Support access** to necessary products
  - provision to patients may be required or desirable in some countries;
  - nasal mupirocin 2% ointment;
  - CHG 2-4% soap body wash.
- For other types of surgery**, undertake a **careful local evaluation** about whether and how to apply this recommendation. In particular, regarding feasibility of carrier identification in a broader surgical patient population, priority of this intervention over other preventive measures should be considered, as well as cost effectiveness.
- Support the local screening policy** of patients to detect *S. aureus* carriage—consider the local rates of *S. aureus* and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) and patient-related factors.
  - Specifically look for previous *S. aureus* infections, known carrier status of community-acquired MRSA, and colonization by *S. aureus* in body sites other than the nose.
- Monitor mupirocin resistance**, if mupirocin is used. Decolonization with mupirocin ointment should be performed on known *S. aureus* carriers only in order to avoid unnecessary treatment and the spread of resistance.
- Ensure that potential **allergic reactions** to mupirocin and CHG are **investigated and recorded**.
- Ensure that **patient communications**

Source: [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training\\_education/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training_education/en/)

# Strong recommendation – preoperative measures:

## mechanical bowel preparation (MBP) and preoperative oral antibiotics



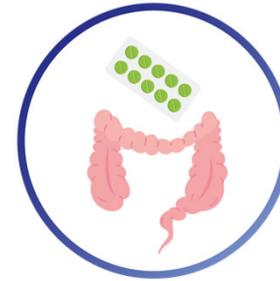
**1. MBP alone (*without* administration of oral antibiotics) should *not* be used in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery (strong recommendation).**

**2. Preoperative oral antibiotics combined with MBP should be used to reduce the risk of SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery (conditional recommendation).**

### Why?

- Evidence (moderate quality) showed that preoperative MBP alone has neither benefit nor harm in reducing SSI rate when compared to performing no MBP.
- Further evidence (moderate quality) showed that **preoperative MBP combined with oral antibiotics reduced SSI when compared to MBP alone.**

## Practical points



- This recommendation applies only to the **preoperative period** and should not be referred to as “selective digestive decontamination”.
- **Local considerations** may determine variations in decisions about the type of MBP regimen and oral antibiotics, and the drug of choice for intravenous antibiotic prophylaxis (availability, resistance data and volume of surgical activity).
- The combination of drugs used should guarantee activity against both facultative gram-negative and anaerobic bacteria. In most studies, oral aminoglycosides were combined with metronidazole or erythromycin.

# Strong recommendations – preoperative measures: hair removal



In patients undergoing any surgical procedure, hair should either *not* be removed or, if absolutely necessary, should only be removed with clippers. Shaving is strongly discouraged at all times, whether preoperatively or in the operating room.

## Why?

- Removal of hair by any method has no benefit on the incidence of postoperative infection compared to no hair removal.
- The incidence of SSI is higher when hair removal is performed by razor than by clippers because shaving causes small abrasions to the skin.
- Most studies support that hair removal, if any, should be done immediately before operation.
- **Note:** the evidence showed that use of depilatory creams has no benefit (no lower SSI risk) compared with shaving; in addition, these sometimes produce hypersensitivity reactions. WHO does not recommend their use.

# Practical points

- It has been noted that, when hair absolutely must be removed (when presence of hair will interfere with the operation), a single-use head should be used for electric clippers.
- Women may prefer shaving the genital area before surgery and may even come to the hospital already shaved because of cultural norms – this is something that should be avoided and should be addressed in training and education targeted at patients.



**SURGICAL SITE INFECTION PREVENTION**  
Key facts on patient bathing and hair removal

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
What does the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend?

The 2016 WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs) recommend that:

- It is good clinical practice for patients to **bathe or shower before surgery** with either a plain or antimicrobial soap;
- in patients undergoing any surgical procedure, **hair should either NOT be removed or, if absolutely necessary, only removed with a clipper**. Shaving is strongly discouraged at all times, both preoperatively and in the operating room.

The evidence base is focused on adult patients, but the recommendations are also considered valid for paediatric patients.

**WHAT should be done?**

**Preoperative bathing/showering**

- Instruct patients** – provide clear instructions to perform a thorough bath or shower before the operation.
- Type of soap** – use either plain or antimicrobial soap to body wash with clean, running water.
- Provide soap to patients** – this may be required or desirable in some countries.
- In paediatric patients**, follow manufacturers instructions on the use of antimicrobial soap.
- Record known information** on preoperative bathing on surveillance forms and in patient records.
- Support patients and colleagues** to adhere to this recommendation and be an advocate for it.

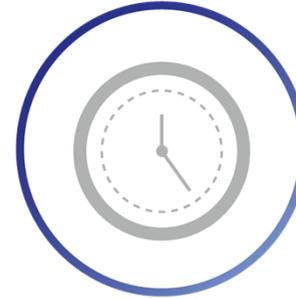
**Hair removal**

- Instruct patients** – provide information on NOT shaving prior to coming to the facility or to surgery. Women who shave the genital area as a cultural habit should be targeted for specific education.
- Avoid hair removal** – unless the surgeon considers that it might interfere with the operation site. In this case, the surgeon should carefully evaluate if hair removal is necessary, with the help of a nurse.
- When hair removal is necessary, **perform using a clipper** (single-use heads are preferable). Never shave with a razor.
- Clean and decontaminate** clippers after use before being used on another patient, if single-use disposable clippers are not available.
- Decontaminate by carefully disassembling the blades using **personal protective equipment**, cleaning with soap and water, drying, and then wiping them with alcohol or
- Support colleagues** to adhere to this recommendation and be an advocate for it.



Source: [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training\\_education/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training_education/en/)

# Strong recommendations – preoperative measures: Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) timing (1)



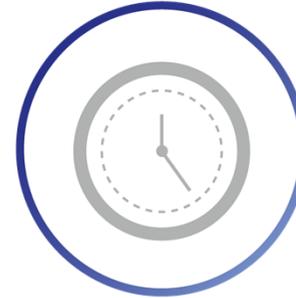
**SAP should be administered before the surgical incision, when indicated.**

**SAP should be administered within 120 minutes before incision, while considering the half-life of the antibiotic.**

## **Why?**

- Correct preoperative administration timing to achieve adequate concentration of drug at the site of incision at the beginning of the operation (highest risk of surgical site contamination) is critical. Incorrect (before 120 minutes or after incision) timing can lead to an increased risk of SSI.
- Correct antibiotic type according to the procedure and patient history aims to destroy the bacteria most frequently found at the operation site and to be safe for the patient.

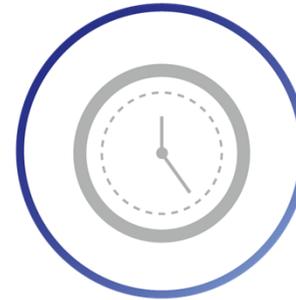
# Strong recommendations – preoperative measures: SAP timing (2)



## **Notes**

- Correct dosage is important to have the right antibiotic concentration at the operation site throughout the entire operation.
- Correct use of SAP is important not only to prevent SSI but also to avoid emergence of antimicrobial-resistant pathogens that can cause more serious disease to the patient.

# Practical points



- **Half-life of antibiotics** may affect serum and tissue concentrations – half-life of administered antibiotics should be taken into account in order to establish the exact time of administration within the 120-minute recommendation.
- Antibiotics with a short half-life (e.g. cefazolin, cefoxitin and penicillins in general) should be administered closer to the incision time (<60 minutes).
- Underlying factors in patients may also affect drug disposition (e.g. malnourishment, obesity, cachexia or renal disease with protein loss may result in suboptimal antibiotic exposure through increased antibiotic clearance in the presence of normal or augmented renal function).
- An example of surgery not requiring SAP is clean orthopaedic surgery not involving implantation of foreign materials.
- There are recommendations about **redosing** if a procedure exceeds two half-lives of the drug or if there is excessive blood loss, but not enough evidence is available to make this confirmed protocols.

# Strong recommendations – preoperative measures: surgical hand preparation



**Surgical hand preparation should be performed by either scrubbing with a suitable antimicrobial soap and water or using a suitable alcohol-based handrub (ABHR) before donning sterile gloves.**

## Why?

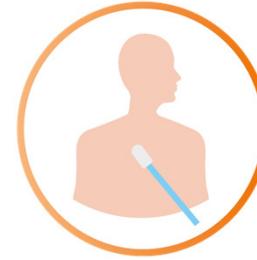
- It is vitally important to maintain the lowest possible contamination of the surgical field (even when sterile gloves are worn – glove punctures can occur). Hand preparation should reduce the release of skin bacteria from the hands to the open wound.
- Surgical hand preparation should eliminate transient flora and reduce resident flora.
- Moderate-quality evidence shows the equivalence of ABHR and use of antimicrobial soap and water.
- **Note:** the hands of the surgical team should be clean upon entering the operating room.

# Practical points



- Once in the operating area, repeating handrubbing or scrubbing without an additional prior handwash is recommended before switching to the next procedure.
- Surgical handscrub and surgical handrub with an alcohol-based product should not be combined sequentially.
- Alcohol-based handrubs can be produced locally (more on this later).
- The use of alcohol on patients or health workers who for religious reasons may object has been addressed in the WHO guidelines on hand hygiene in health care, with cultural and religious leaders providing supporting statements to overcome barriers.
- Skin irritation can happen and health facilities should be alert to deal with such situations.

# Strong recommendations – preoperative measures: surgical site skin preparation



**Alcohol-based antiseptic solutions based on CHG for surgical site skin preparation should be used in patients undergoing surgical procedures.**

## Why?

- This measure reduces the microbial load on the patient's skin as much as possible before incision.
- Alcohol-based CHG is more effective in reducing SSI rates compared to alcohol-based povidone-iodine.
- **Notes:** intact skin prep should be done prior to incision in the operating room. This recommendation is not proven for paediatric patients.

# Practical points

- Alcohol-based solutions should **not** be in contact with mucosa or eyes and should not be used on newborns.
- Ensure operating and ward staff are aware that CHG can cause skin irritation.
- The use of alcohol on patients or health workers who for religious reasons may object has been addressed in the WHO guidelines on hand hygiene in health care, with cultural and religious leaders providing supporting statements to overcome barriers.
- Alcohol/CHG-based skin preparation solutions can be produced locally if needed (more on this later).



## In the operating room:

- ensure correct placement of patient (to avoid movement after skin prep but considering areas of skin that might be prone to breaking down due to the pressure of being in one position for too long) and skin examine;
- protect health workers against splashing – gloves should be worn but changed once the skin prep is complete;
- ensure skin preparation is **not** removed/washed off before draping.

# Surgical skin preparation in practice: key resources



## SURGICAL SITE INFECTION PREVENTION Key facts on surgical site skin preparation

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
What does the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend?

The 2016 WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections (SSIs) recommend that:

- alcohol-based antiseptic solutions containing chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) should be used for surgical site skin preparation in patients undergoing surgical procedures.

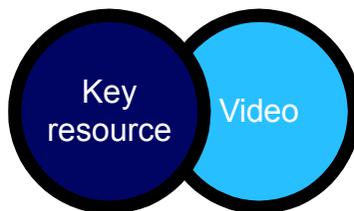
Surgical site skin preparation is the preoperative treatment (cleaning and disinfection) of the patient's intact skin done prior to surgery within the operating room (OR).

**WHAT should be done?**

- Carefully wash and clean the skin around the incision site. Full-body washing with detergents or antiseptics should be performed before the operation and outside of the OR (see "Key facts on patient bathing and hair removal").
- Use an alcohol-based CHG solution (usually a 2% chlorhexidine isopropanol solution) for surgical site skin preparation.
- Apply the solution using sterile gauze and instruments with movements from clean to dirty areas starting from the centre of the incision site and moving outwards, maintaining an aseptic technique. Then, allow to dry fully before incision.
- Ensure that the drapes are not saturated with alcohol or that the alcohol-based solution has not formed a pool underneath the patient before operating.
- Ensure that any adverse events associated with the solutions used are investigated and recorded.
- Record known information on surgical site skin preparation on surveillance forms and in patient records (for example, that it has been performed according to standard procedures and no adverse event occurred, time, and product used).
- Support colleagues to adhere to this recommendation and be an advocate for it.

**Local production**

- If the commercial availability of CHG in an alcohol-based solution is limited or too expensive, the use of a 2% chlorhexidine isopropanol solution for skin disinfection produced locally according to the
- Alcohol-based solutions should not be used on neonates or be in contact with mucosa or eyes. CHG solutions must not be allowed to come into contact with the brain, meninges, eye or middle ear.
- A video on the appropriate procedure to be used for surgical site skin preparation is available from WHO at [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training\\_ed](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training_ed)



Source: [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training\\_education/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/training_education/en/)

# Strong recommendations – intra- and postoperative measures:

## SAP prolongation



**SAP administration should *not* be prolonged after completion of the operation.**

### Why?

- Moderate-quality evidence shows that prolonged SAP postoperatively has no benefit in reducing SSI after surgery compared to a single (preoperative) dose.
- Discontinuation of SAP after surgery avoids unnecessary extra costs, potential side-effects and emergence of AMR.

## Practical points



- This recommendation is applicable to the peri- and postoperative periods.
- A relevant harm linked to SAP prolongation is the intestinal spread of *Clostridium difficile*, with higher risk of clinical manifestation of infection.
- It can be challenging to ensure SAP is not continued or confused with the need for antibiotics due to an infection.



# HANDLE ANTIBIOTICS WITH CARE IN SURGERY



## Misuse of antibiotics puts all surgical patients at risk



Up to **33%** of surgical patients get a postoperative infection, of which **51%** can be antibiotic resistant



Up to **15%** of women around the world get an infection after a caesarean section



**43%** of patients have surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) inappropriately continued after the operation

**REDUCE**

the risk of surgical site infection (SSI) by improving SAP and infection prevention and control practices

**IMPROVE**

quality of care and patient safety and reduce antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through SSI reduction

### WHAT SHOULD HEALTH WORKERS DO TO PREVENT AMR IN SURGERY?



Give intravenous SAP  
- when recommended, depending on the type of operation  
- within 120 minutes preceding surgical incision



For effective SAP, adequate antibiotic tissue concentrations should be present at the time of surgical incision and throughout the procedure. Thus, antibiotics with a short half-life should be administered closer to incision time.



Improvement of antibiotic use in surgical services should be part of the antimicrobial stewardship programme

### WHO SHOULD BE INVOLVED IN ENSURING APPROPRIATE ANTIBIOTIC USE IN SURGERY



SURGEONS



ANAESTHETISTS



OPERATING ROOM NURSES



INFECTIOUS DISEASES DOCTORS



INFECTION PREVENTION & CONTROL TEAM



SURGICAL WARD STAFF



PHARMACISTS



SENIOR MANAGERS AND PROCUREMENT STAFF



PATIENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES (CIVIL SOCIETY)

### WHAT SHOULD YOU NOT DO?



Avoid prolonging SAP postoperatively



Avoid antibiotic wound irrigation



Avoid continuing antibiotic prophylaxis because there is a drain (evaluate each case)



Avoid giving antibiotic treatment unless there is a proven or suspected SSI or other infection



These recommendations are based on evidence from studies in adult patients, but they are considered valid also for paediatric patients



[www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/ssi-guidelines/en](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/ssi-guidelines/en)

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/focus-amr/en/>

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention



**Conditional** recommendations are also important recommendations for which the expert panel considered that the benefits of intervention probably outweighs the risks; however, when considering them for adoption, a more structured decision-making process should be undertaken, based on stakeholder consultation and involvement of patients and health care professionals.

This involves considering local priorities for improvement, feasibility, resource (both human and financial) implications and local culture.

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – preoperative period (1)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	Strength Quality
Perioperative discontinuation of immunosuppressive agents	Should immunosuppressive agents be discontinued perioperatively and does this affect the incidence of SSI?	Immunosuppressive medication should not be discontinued prior to surgery for the purpose of preventing SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Very low quality of evidence
Enhanced nutritional support	In surgical patients, should enhanced nutritional support be used for the prevention of SSI?	Consider the administration of oral or enteral multiple nutrient-enhanced nutritional formulas for the purpose of preventing SSI in underweight patients who undergo major surgical operations.	Conditional recommendation ----- Very low quality of evidence
Preoperative bathing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is preoperative bathing using an antiseptic soap more effective in reducing the incidence of SSI in surgical patients when compared to bathing with plain soap?</li> <li>2. Is preoperative bathing with CHG-impregnated cloths more effective in reducing the incidence of SSI in surgical patients when compared to bathing with antiseptic soap?</li> </ol>	<p>It is good clinical practice for patients to bathe or shower before surgery.</p> <p>Either a plain soap or an antiseptic soap could be used for this purpose.</p> <p>Due to very low quality evidence, the panel decided not to formulate a recommendation the use of CHG-impregnated cloths for the purpose of reducing SSI.</p>	<p>Conditional recommendation ----- Moderate quality of evidence</p>

Source: Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infection. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2016 (<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/publications/ssi-prevention-guidelines/en/>).

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – preoperative period (2)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	<u>Strength</u> <u>Quality</u>
Decolonisation with mupirocin ointment with or without CHG body wash for the prevention of <i>S. aureus</i> infection in nasal carriers undergoing surgery	Is mupirocin nasal ointment in combination with or without a CHG body wash effective in reducing the number of <i>S. aureus</i> infections in nasal carriers undergoing surgery?	<p>Patients undergoing cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgery with known nasal carriage of <i>S. aureus</i> should receive perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash.</p> <p>Consider also treating patients with known nasal carriage of <i>S. aureus</i> undergoing other types of surgery with perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash.</p>	<p><b>Strong recommendation</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Moderate quality of evidence</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Conditional recommendation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Moderate quality of evidence</p>
MBP and the use of oral antibiotics	Is MBP combined with or without oral antibiotics effective for the prevention of SSI in colorectal surgery?	<p>Preoperative oral antibiotics combined with MBP should be used to reduce the risk of SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery.</p> <p>MBP alone (without the administration of oral antibiotics) should not be used for the purpose of reducing SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery.</p>	<p>Conditional recommendation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Moderate quality of evidence</p> <p>-----</p> <p><b>Strong recommendation</b></p> <p>-----</p> <p>Moderate quality of evidence</p>

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – preoperative period (3)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	<u>Strength</u> Quality
Antimicrobial skin sealants	In surgical patients, should antimicrobial sealants (in addition to standard surgical site skin preparation) versus standard surgical site skin preparation be used for the prevention of SSI?	Antimicrobial sealants should not be used after surgical site skin preparation for the purpose of reducing SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Very low quality of evidence
<b>Perioperative oxygenation</b>	How safe and effective is the perioperative use of an increased fraction of inspired oxygen in reducing the risk of SSI?	The panel suggests that adult patients undergoing general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation for surgical procedures should receive an 80% fraction of inspired oxygen intraoperatively and, if feasible, in the immediate postoperative period for 2-6 hours to reduce the risk of SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Moderate quality of evidence

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – intraoperative period (1)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	Strength Quality
Maintaining normal body temperature (normothermia)	In surgical patients, should systemic body warming versus no warming be used for the prevention of SSI?	Warming devices should be used in the operating room and during the surgical procedure for patient body warming with the purpose of reducing SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Moderate quality of evidence
Use of protocols for intensive perioperative blood glucose control	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do protocols aiming to maintain optimal perioperative blood glucose levels reduce the risk of SSI?</li> <li>What are the optimal perioperative glucose target levels in diabetic and non-diabetic patients?</li> </ol>	Protocols for intensive perioperative blood glucose control should be used for both diabetic and non-diabetic adult patients undergoing surgical procedures.	Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence
Maintenance of adequate circulating volume control/ normovolaemia	Does the use of specific fluid management strategies during surgery affect the incidence of SSI?	Goal-directed fluid therapy should be used intraoperatively for the purpose of the reduction of SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – intraoperative period (2)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	Strength Quality
Drapes and gowns	1. Is there a difference in SSI rates depending on the use of disposable non-woven drapes and gowns vs. reusable, woven drapes and gowns?	Either sterile disposable non-woven or sterile reusable woven drapes and surgical gowns can be used during surgical operations for the purpose of preventing SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Moderate to very low quality of evidence
	3. Does the use of disposable adhesive incise drapes reduce the risk of SSI?	<u>Plastic adhesive incise drapes</u> with or without antimicrobial properties should <u>not</u> be used for the purpose of preventing SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Low to very low quality of evidence
Wound protector devices	Does the use of wound protector devices reduce the rate of SSI in open abdominal surgery?	Consider the use of wound protector devices in <u>clean-contaminated, contaminated and dirty abdominal</u> surgical procedures for the purpose of reducing the rate of SSI.	Conditional recommendation ----- Very low quality of evidence

# WHO conditional recommendations



## for SSI prevention – intraoperative period (3)

Topic	Research question	Recommendation	<u>Strength</u> <u>Quality</u>
Incisional wound irrigation	Does intraoperative wound irrigation reduce the risk of SSI?	<p>There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against saline irrigation of incisional wounds for the purpose of preventing SSI.</p> <p>Consider the use of irrigation of the incisional wound with an <u>aqueous povidone iodine solution</u> before closure for the purpose of preventing SSI, particularly in <u>clean and clean-contaminated wounds</u>.</p> <p>Antibiotic incisional wound irrigation before closure should not be used for the purpose of preventing SSI.</p>	<p>Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence</p> <p>Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence</p> <p>Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence</p>
Prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy	Does prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy reduce the rate of SSI compared to the use of conventional dressings?	Prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy may be used on <u>primarily closed surgical incisions in high-risk wounds</u> and, taking resources into account, for the purpose of preventing SSI.	<p>Conditional recommendation ----- Low quality of evidence</p>

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – intraoperative period (4)



Topic	Research question	Recommendation	<u>Strength</u> Quality
Antimicrobial-coated sutures	Are antimicrobial-coated sutures effective to prevent SSI? If yes, when and how should they be used?	Triclosan-coated sutures may be used for the purpose of reducing the risk of SSI, independent of the type of surgery.	Conditional recommendation ----- Moderate quality of evidence
Laminar flow ventilation systems in the context of operating room ventilation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Is the use of laminar air flow in the operating room associated with the reduction of overall or deep SSI?</li> <li>2. Does the use of fans or cooling devices increase SSIs?</li> <li>3. Is natural ventilation an acceptable alternative to mechanical ventilation?</li> </ol>	Laminar airflow ventilation systems should not be used to reduce the risk of SSI for patients undergoing total arthroplasty surgery.	Conditional recommendation ----- Low to very low quality of evidence

# WHO conditional recommendations for SSI prevention – postoperative period



Topic	Research Question	Recommendation	<u>Strength</u> Quality
Antimicrobial prophylaxis in the presence of a drain and optimal timing for wound drain removal	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. In the presence of drains, does prolonged antibiotic prophylaxis prevent SSI?</li> <li>2. When using drains, how long should they be kept in place to minimise SSI as a complication?</li> </ol>	<p>Perioperative surgical antibiotic prophylaxis should not be continued due to the presence of a wound drain for the purpose of preventing SSI.</p> <p>The wound drain should be removed when clinically indicated. No evidence was found to allow making a recommendation on the optimal timing of wound drain removal for the purpose of the prevention of SSI.</p>	<p>Conditional recommendation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Low quality of evidence</p> <p>Conditional recommendation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Very low quality of evidence</p>
Advanced dressings	In surgical patients, should advanced dressings vs. standard sterile wound dressings be used for the prevention of SSI?	Advanced dressing of any type should <u>not</u> be used over a standard dressing on primarily closed surgical wounds for the purpose of preventing SSI.	<p>Conditional recommendation</p> <p>-----</p> <p>Low quality of evidence</p>

# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

## Results:

- 15 RCT, 7237 patients
- Range of procedures
- General & Neuraxial anesthesia
  
- OR: 0.84 (95% CI, 0.66 to 1.06)
- Chi<sup>2</sup> P-value: 0.01, I<sup>2</sup>: 51%

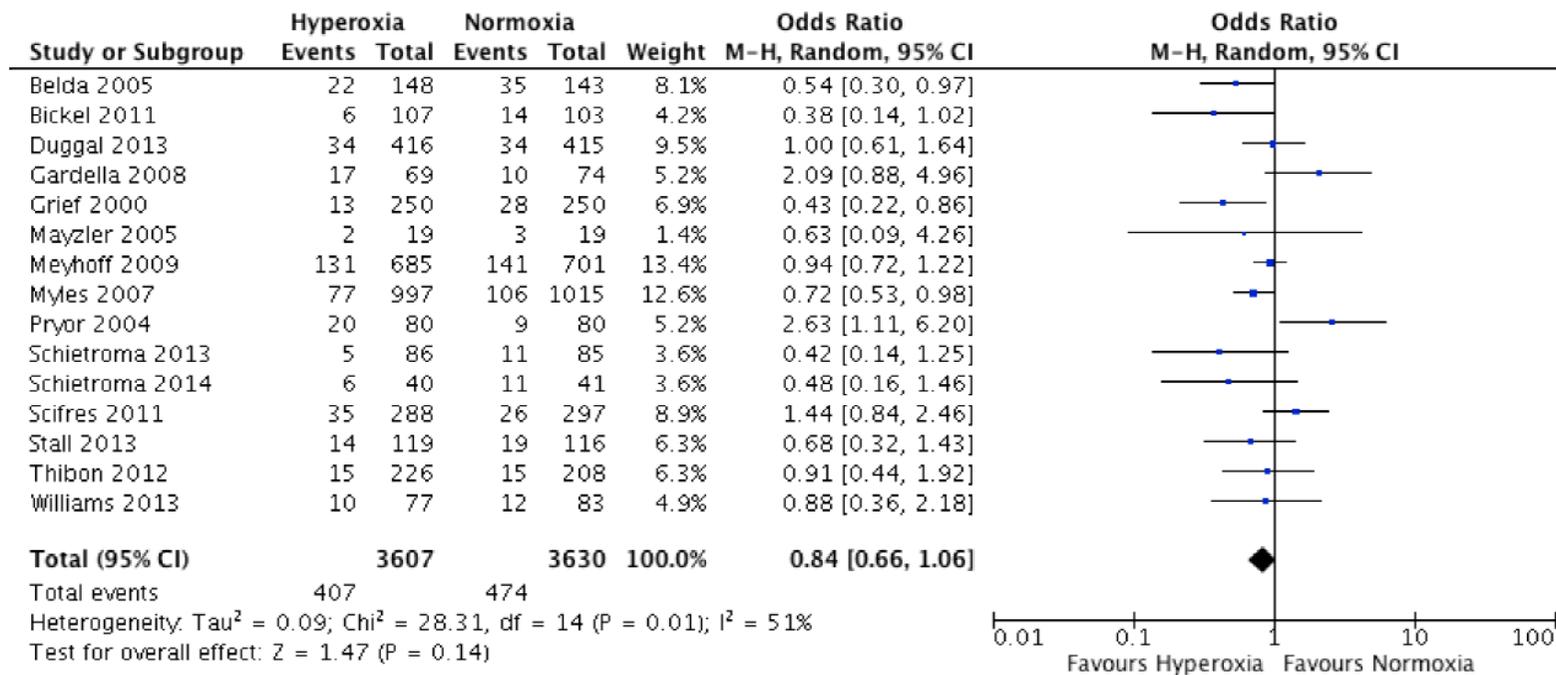
\*See WHO Guidelines chapter 4.12 pages 110-115 and Web Appendix 13 at <http://www.who.int/gpsc/appendix13.pdf?ua=1>

# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

## Overall analysis

15 RCT, 7237 patients  
 Range of procedures  
 General & Neuraxial anesthesia

### 1) Administration of increased FiO2 vs. standard oxygenation



M-H: Mantel-Haenszel (test); CI: confidence interval

# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

## Overall analysis

Study or Subgroup	Hyperoxia		Normoxia		Weight	Odds Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI	Odds Ratio M-H, Random, 95% CI
	Events	Total	Events	Total			
<b>1.2.1 General anesthesia with endotracheal tube</b>							
Belda 2005	22	148	35	143	8.1%	0.54 [0.30, 0.97]	
Bickel 2011	6	107	14	103	4.2%	0.38 [0.14, 1.02]	
Grief 2000	13	250	28	250	6.9%	0.43 [0.22, 0.86]	
Mayzler 2005	2	19	3	19	1.4%	0.63 [0.09, 4.26]	

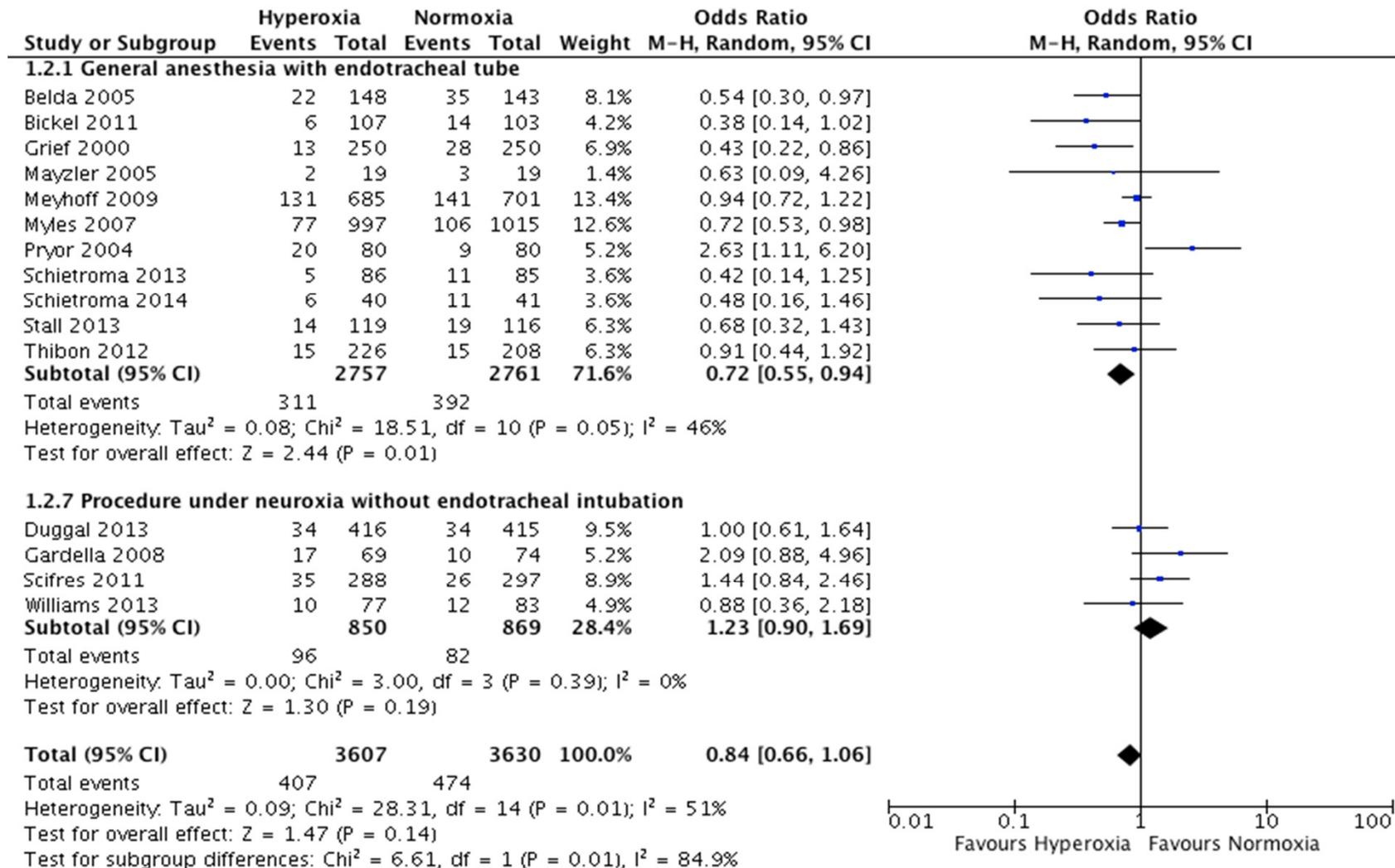
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>		<b>3607</b>		<b>3630</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>0.84 [0.66, 1.06]</b>
Total events		407		474		
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> = 0.09; Chi <sup>2</sup> = 28.31, df = 14 (P = 0.01); I <sup>2</sup> = 51%						
Test for overall effect: Z = 1.47 (P = 0.14)						

<b>Test for subgroup differences: Chi<sup>2</sup> = 6.61, df = 1 (P = 0.01), I<sup>2</sup> = 84.9%</b>
--

**META-REGRESSION:**  
P = 0.05

# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

## Sub-group analysis



# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

## *Sub-group analysis*

General anest.  
+ endotr. intub.

<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>2757</b>	<b>2761</b>	<b>71.6%</b>	<b>0.72 [0.55, 0.94]</b>
Total events	311	392		
Heterogeneity: $\text{Tau}^2 = 0.08$ ; $\text{Chi}^2 = 18.51$ , $\text{df} = 10$ ( $P = 0.05$ ); $I^2 = 46\%$				
Test for overall effect: $Z = 2.44$ ( $P = 0.01$ )				

Schiroma 2013 5 86 11 85 3.6% 0.42 [0.14, 1.25]

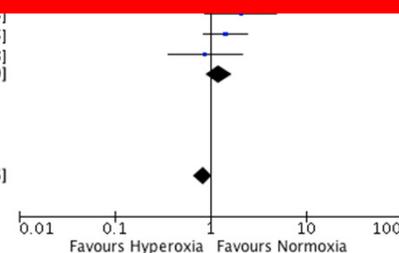
Neuraxial.  
anest. vs  
endotr. intub

<b>Subtotal (95% CI)</b>	<b>850</b>	<b>869</b>	<b>28.4%</b>	<b>1.23 [0.90, 1.69]</b>
Total events	96	82		
Heterogeneity: $\text{Tau}^2 = 0.00$ ; $\text{Chi}^2 = 3.00$ , $\text{df} = 3$ ( $P = 0.39$ ); $I^2 = 0\%$				
Test for overall effect: $Z = 1.30$ ( $P = 0.19$ )				

Gardella 2008 17 69 10 74 5.2% 2.09 [0.88, 4.96]  
Scifres 2011 35 288 26 297 8.9% 1.44 [0.84, 2.46]  
Williams 2013 10 77 12 83 4.9% 0.88 [0.36, 2.18]  
**Subtotal (95% CI)** 850 869 28.4% 1.23 [0.90, 1.69]

Total events 96 82  
Heterogeneity:  $\text{Tau}^2 = 0.00$ ;  $\text{Chi}^2 = 3.00$ ,  $\text{df} = 3$  ( $P = 0.39$ );  $I^2 = 0\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z = 1.30$  ( $P = 0.19$ )

**Total (95% CI)** 3607 3630 100.0% 0.84 [0.66, 1.06]  
Total events 407 474  
Heterogeneity:  $\text{Tau}^2 = 0.09$ ;  $\text{Chi}^2 = 28.31$ ,  $\text{df} = 14$  ( $P = 0.01$ );  $I^2 = 51\%$   
Test for overall effect:  $Z = 1.47$  ( $P = 0.14$ )  
Test for subgroup differences:  $\text{Chi}^2 = 6.61$ ,  $\text{df} = 1$  ( $P = 0.01$ ),  $I^2 = 84.9\%$



# 2014 systematic review & 2016 WHO guidelines

**WHO recommendation:** *“The panel recommends that **adult patients undergoing general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation for surgical procedures should receive an 80% fraction of inspired oxygen intraoperatively and, if feasible, in the immediate postoperative period for 2-6 hours to reduce the risk of SSI.**”*

Recommendation: Strong

Quality of evidence: Moderate

JAMA Surgery | Special Communication

Centers for Disease Control and  
for the Prevention of Surgical S

SURGICAL INFECTIONS  
Volume 18, Number 4, 2017  
© Mary Ann Liebert, Inc.  
DOI: 10.1089/sur.2016.214

*Reviews*

Executive Summary of the American College  
of Surgeons/Surgical Infection Society Surgical  
Site Infection Guidelines—2016 Update

# Concerns raised & GDG consultation 1 (first semester 2017)

\*Jannicke Mellin-Olsen,  
Robert J McDougall, Davy Cheng  
jannicke@mellin.no

World Federation of Societies of  
Anaesthesiologists (IM-O, RIM, DC): Department

## EDITORIAL VIEWS

### Who Can Make Sense of the Surgical Site Infection?

Göran Hedenstierna, M.D., Ph.D., Gaetano Pe...

### The New World Health Organization on Perioperative Administration of Surgical Site Infections: A Danish Approach?

Manuel Wenk, MD, PhD, Hugo Van Aken, MD, PhD, and Al...

In October 2016, the World Health Organization (WHO) issued a recommendation regarding surgical site infections (SSIs). Among those measures, the use of high inspired oxygen at an inspired fraction of 80% intra- and postoperatively has been identified as a global health problem, and the WHO should be commended for their efforts. However, this recommendation focuses only on the patient's "wound," ignores other organ systems potentially affected by hyperoxia, and may ultimately worsen patient outcomes. The WHO advances a "strong recommendation" for the use of a high inspired oxygen fraction even though the quality of evidence is only moderate. However, achieving this goal by disregarding other potentially lethal complications seems inappropriate, particularly in light of the weak evidence underpinning the use of high fractions of oxygen to prevent SSI. Use of such a strategy thus should be intensely discussed by anesthesiologists and perioperative physicians. Normovolemia, normotension, normoglycemia, normothermia, and normoventilation can clearly be safely applied to most patients in most clinical scenarios. But the liberal application of

\*Christian S Meyhoff, Siv Fonnes,  
Jørn Wetterslev, Lars N Jorgensen,  
Lars S Rasmussen

## Editorial

Anaesthesist  
DOI 10.1007/s00101-017-0286-4

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Turk J Anaesthesiol Reanim 2017; 45: 181-92

DOI: 10.5152/TJAR.2017.250701



T. Volk<sup>1</sup> · J. Peters<sup>2</sup> · D. I. Sessler<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Department of Outcomes Research, Anesthesiology Institute, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, USA

### WHO Needs High FIO<sub>2</sub>?

Ozan Akca<sup>1</sup>, Lorenzo Ball<sup>2</sup>, F. Javier Belda<sup>3</sup>, Peter Biro<sup>4</sup>, Andrea Cortegiani<sup>5</sup>, Arieh Eden<sup>6</sup>, Carlos Ferrando<sup>3</sup>, Luciano Gattinoni<sup>7</sup>, Zeev Goldik<sup>6</sup>, Cesare Gregoretti<sup>5</sup>, Thomas Hachenberg<sup>8</sup>, Göran Hedenstierna<sup>9</sup>, Harriet W. Hopf<sup>10</sup>, Thomas K. Hunt<sup>11</sup>, Paolo Pelosi<sup>2</sup>, Motaz Qadan<sup>12</sup>, Daniel I. Sessler<sup>13</sup>, Marina Soro<sup>3</sup>, Mert Şentürk<sup>14</sup>

## Phase#2: Concerns raised & GDG consultation 1 (first semester 2017)

- Effectiveness of the use of high FiO<sub>2</sub>
  - Sub-group analysis
  - Update 2015
  - Inclusion criteria
- Harms of the use of high FiO<sub>2</sub>
  - Atelectasis
  - Animal experiments
  - Other clinical settings (i.e. respiratory distress, critically ill)
- Resource use of the use of high FiO<sub>2</sub>
  - Priority

## REVIEW ARTICLE

## Safety of 80% vs 30–35% fraction of inspired oxygen in patients undergoing surgery: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Katharina Mattishent<sup>1</sup>, Menaka Thavarajah<sup>1</sup>, Ashnish Sinha<sup>1</sup>, Adam Peel<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Egger<sup>2</sup>, Joseph Solomkin<sup>3</sup>, Stijn de Jonge<sup>4</sup>, Asad Latif<sup>5,6</sup>, Sean Berenholtz<sup>5,6</sup>, Benedetta Allegranzi<sup>7,\*</sup> and Yoon Kong Loke<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK, <sup>2</sup>Institute of Social and Preventive Medicine, University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland, <sup>3</sup>Department of Surgery, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Cincinnati, OH, USA, <sup>4</sup>Department of Surgery, Amsterdam Gastroenterology and Metabolism, Amsterdam Infection and Immunity, Amsterdam UMC, Location AMC, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, <sup>5</sup>Department of Anesthesiology and Critical Care Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA, <sup>6</sup>Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality, Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, MD, USA and <sup>7</sup>Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit, Service Delivery and Safety, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland

\*Corresponding author. E-mail: [allegranzi@who.int](mailto:allegranzi@who.int)

## Effectiveness of 80% vs 30–35% fraction of inspired oxygen in patients undergoing surgery: an updated systematic review and meta-analysis

Stijn de Jonge<sup>1</sup>, Matthias Egger<sup>2</sup>, Asad Latif<sup>3,4</sup>, Yoon Kong Loke<sup>5</sup>, Sean Berenholtz<sup>3,4</sup>, Marja Boermeester<sup>1</sup>, Benedetta Allegranzi<sup>6,\*</sup> and Joseph Solomkin<sup>7,†</sup>

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†These authors contributed equally to the manuscript.

de Jonge et al. Br J Anaesth. 2019 Mar;122(3):325-334  
Mattishent et al. Br J Anaesth. 2019 Mar;122(3):311-324

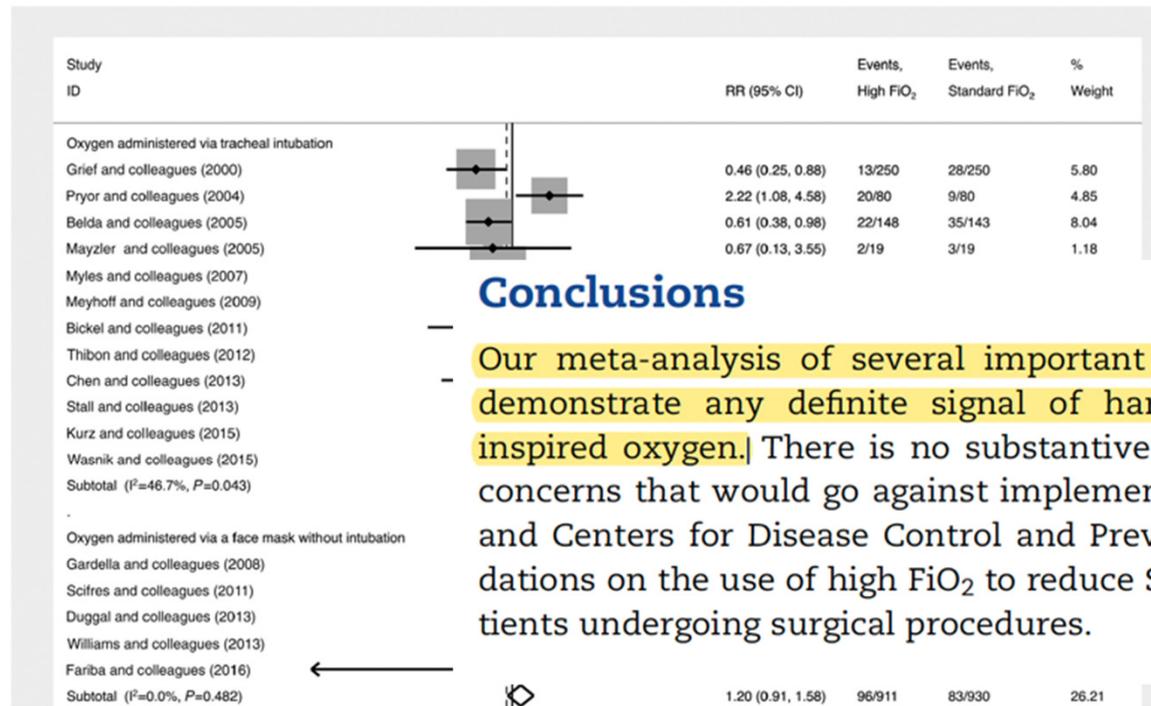
# Final updated evidence on effectiveness (July 2018)

- Six new trials identified
- Retraction Schietroma trial & serious concerns on other 3 trials validity
  - => Exclude all 4 from primary analysis.
- **Overall analysis:** **RR: 0.89 (95%CI, 0.73, 1.07)**
- **Meta regression anesthesia** **P-value: 0.048**
- **Subgroup general anesthesia:** **RR: 0.80 (95%CI, 0.64, 0.99)**
- **Subgroup neuraxial anesthesia:** **RR: 1.20 (95%CI, 0.91, 1.58)**
- No further evidence of effect modification
- NB: Sensitivity and meta-regression analyses of Schietroma papers; significant influence effect estimate

# Final updated evidence on effectiveness (July 2018)

	<b>2014 SR &amp; Meta analysis</b>	<b>2018 SR &amp; Meta analysis</b>
<b>General result</b>	15 RCTs, 7237 participants	17 RCTs, 7817 participants
<b>Schietroma et al.</b>	1 Retracted, 1 Under investigation	All disputed trials excluded
<b>Overall estimate:</b>	OR: 0.84 (95% CI, 0.66, 1.06)	RR: 0.89 (95%CI, 0.73, 1.07)
<b>Heterogeneity:</b>	Chi <sup>2</sup> P value: 0.01 , I <sup>2</sup> : 51%	Chi <sup>2</sup> P value: 0.02 , I <sup>2</sup> : 46%
<b>Meta regression anesthesia</b>	P value= 0.05	P value = 0.048
<b>Subgroup general anesthesia</b>	OR: 0.72 (95%CI, 0.55, 0.94)	RR: 0.80 (95%CI, 0.64, 0.99)
<b>Subgroup neuraxial anesthesia</b>	OR: 1.23 (95%CI, 0.90, 1.69)	RR: 1.20 (95%CI, 0.91, 1.58)

\*Evidence quality (GRADE): moderate quality of evidence



## Conclusions

Our meta-analysis of several important outcomes did not demonstrate any definite signal of harm with 80% FiO<sub>2</sub> inspired oxygen. There is no substantive evidence of safety concerns that would go against implementation of the WHO and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations on the use of high FiO<sub>2</sub> to reduce SSI in intubated patients undergoing surgical procedures.

**Conclusions:** The WHO updated analyses did not show definite beneficial effect of the use of high perioperative FiO<sub>2</sub>, overall, but there was evidence of effect of reducing the SSI risk in surgical patients under general anaesthesia with tracheal intubation. However, the evidence for this beneficial effect has become weaker and the strength of the recommendation needs to be reconsidered.

# Final updated evidence on safety\*

## 2018 SR & Meta analysis

### General

27 studies: 17 RCTs, 8 post hoc / subgroup analysis, 2 non-randomized studies

	<b>RCT</b> (good quality, poor AE definition)	<b>Non-RCT</b> (Critical – Serious risk of bias)
<b>Atelectasis</b>	RR: 0.91 (95%CI, 0.59 - 1.42), I <sup>2</sup> : 85%	NA
<b>Pneumonia</b>	RR: 0.78 (95%CI, 0.50 - 1.09), I <sup>2</sup> : 29%	OR: 1.72 (95%CI, 1.30 – 2.28)
<b>Respiratory AE</b>	NA <span style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">SdJ5</span>	OR: 1.99 (95%CI, 1.72 – 2.31)
<b>ICU admission</b>	RR: 0.93 (95%CI, 0.70 - 1.12), I <sup>2</sup> : 03%	OR: 1.64 (95%CI, 1.38 – 1.95)
<b>Cardiovasc AE</b>	RR: 0.90 (95%CI, 0.32 - 2.54), I <sup>2</sup> : 58%	OR: 0.90 (95%CI, 0.32 – 2.54)
<b>TE</b>	RR: 0.89 (95%CI, 0.28 – 2.91) I <sup>2</sup> : 74%	NA
<b>Short term † •</b>	RR: 0.49 (95%CI, 0.17 – 1.37) I <sup>2</sup> : 50%	OR: 2.09 (95%CI, 0.81 – 5.43)
<b>Long term †</b>	RR: 0.96 (95%CI, 0.65 – 1.42) I <sup>2</sup> : 55%	OR: 1.97 (95%CI, 1.30 – 2.99), RR: 1.97 (95%CI, 0.71 – 5.47)

\*Evidence quality (GRADE): from very low to moderate; overall low quality of evidence

## Diapositive 60

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**SdJ5**

Not pooled due to variation in case definition, but two RCTs with both no evidence of significant harm.

Stijn de Jonge; 10.10.2018

# Conclusions

- Exclusion of four studies with disputed credibility and net addition of four new trials.
- Additional information did not strengthen the evidence for effect modification found in the original review and the evidence for a benefit in patients undergoing general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation that led to the strong recommendation in the WHO guidelines.
- Evidence for a beneficial effect has become weaker despite increased number of patients.
- The benefits of hyperoxygenation would likely be maximized when normothermia and normovolemia are maintained
- Evidence supporting safety has become stronger: no definite signal of harm and no or little evidence to discourage the use of high FiO<sub>2</sub> in this population.
- Further high-quality RCTs are urgently needed.

## WHO Guidelines Development Group

The chair of the Guidelines Development Group was Joseph S Solomkin (University of Cincinnati College of Medicine/OASIS Global, USA).

The GRADE methodologist of the WHO Guidelines Development Group was Matthias Egger (University of Bern, Bern, Switzerland).

The following experts served on the Guidelines Development Group:

Hanan H Balkhy (King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); Javier F Belda (University of Valencia, Spain); Sean Berenholtz (Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, USA); Marja A Boermeester (University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands); Nizam Damani (Craigavon Area Hospital, UK); E Patchen Dellinger (University of Washington, USA); Mazen S Ferwana (King Saud Bin Abdulaziz University for Health Sciences, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); Petra Gastmeier (Institute of Hygiene and Environmental Medicine, Charité-University Medicine Berlin, Germany); Robert Greif (Hospital University of Bern, Switzerland); Asad Latif (Johns Hopkins Medicine, Baltimore, USA); Xavier Guirao (Parc Taulí Hospital Universitari, Spain); Nordiah Jalil (University Kebangsaan Malaysia Medical Centre, Malaysia); Robinah Kaitirimba (Uganda National Health Consumers' Organization, Uganda); Fauzia Khan (Aga Khan University Karachi, Pakistan); Janet Martin (School of Medicine/Dentistry Western University, Ontario, Canada); Regina Kamoga (Community Health and Information Network, Uganda); Claire Kilpatrick (KS Healthcare Consulting (S3 Global, UK); Shaheen Mehtar (Stellenbosch University and Infection Control Africa Network, Republic of South Africa); Jannicke Mellin-Olsen (World Federation of Societies of Anesthesiologists, London, UK); Babacar Ndoye (Infection Control Africa Network Board, Senegal); Peter Nthumba (AIC Kijabe Hospital, Kenya); Bisola Onajin Obembe (University of Port Harcourt, Nigeria); Akca Ozan (University of Louisville, USA); Leonardo Pagani (Bolzano Central Hospital, Italy); Didier Pittet (University of Geneva Hospitals, Switzerland); Jianan Ren (Nanjing University, People's Republic of China); Joseph S Solomkin (University of Cincinnati, USA); Akeau Unahalekhaka (Chiang Mai University, Thailand); Andreas F Widmer (Basel University, Switzerland).



**1**

**Awareness of the  
problem**

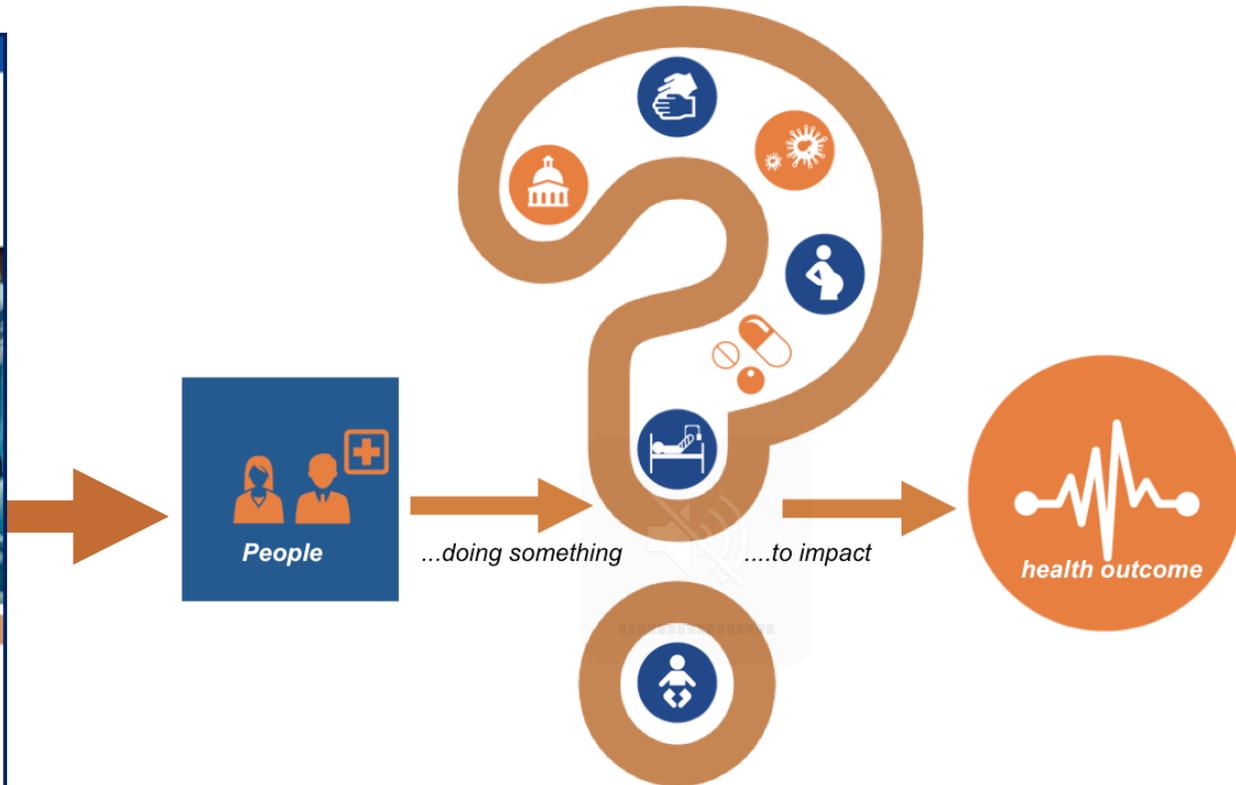
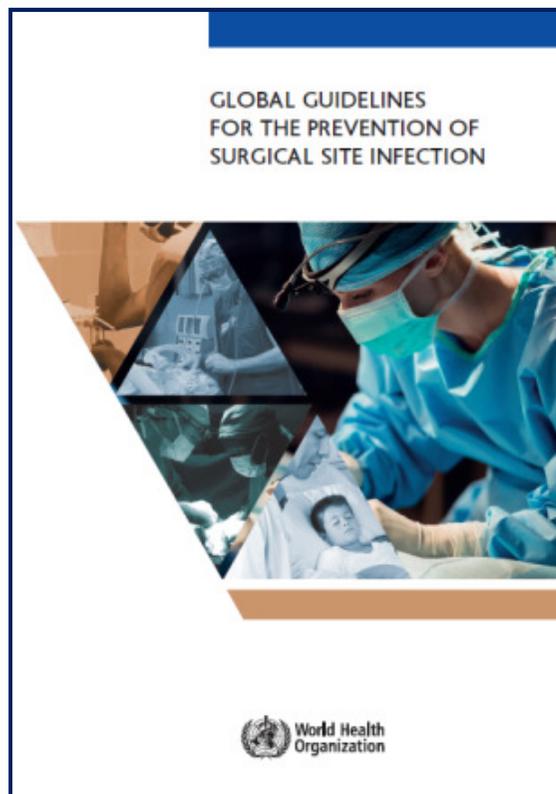
**2**

**Evidence-based  
recommendations**

**3**

**Implementation  
strategies**

# Translating guidelines to action





PREVENTING SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS:  
IMPLEMENTATION APPROACHES  
FOR EVIDENCE-BASED RECOMMENDATIONS

- Document presenting a range of ***tested approaches to achieve successful SSI prevention*** implementation at the facility level, including in the context of a broader surgical safety climate
  - *Original section on the **surgical safety checklist** use worldwide*
  - Results of a comprehensive ***systematic review on SSI prevention strategies***
  - *Section on WHO pilot testing through the **SUSP study***



**IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL**  
to support prevention of  
surgical site infections at the facility level  
**TURNING RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**INTO PRACTICE**

(INTERIM VERSION)



Build it



Teach it



Check it



Sell it



Live it

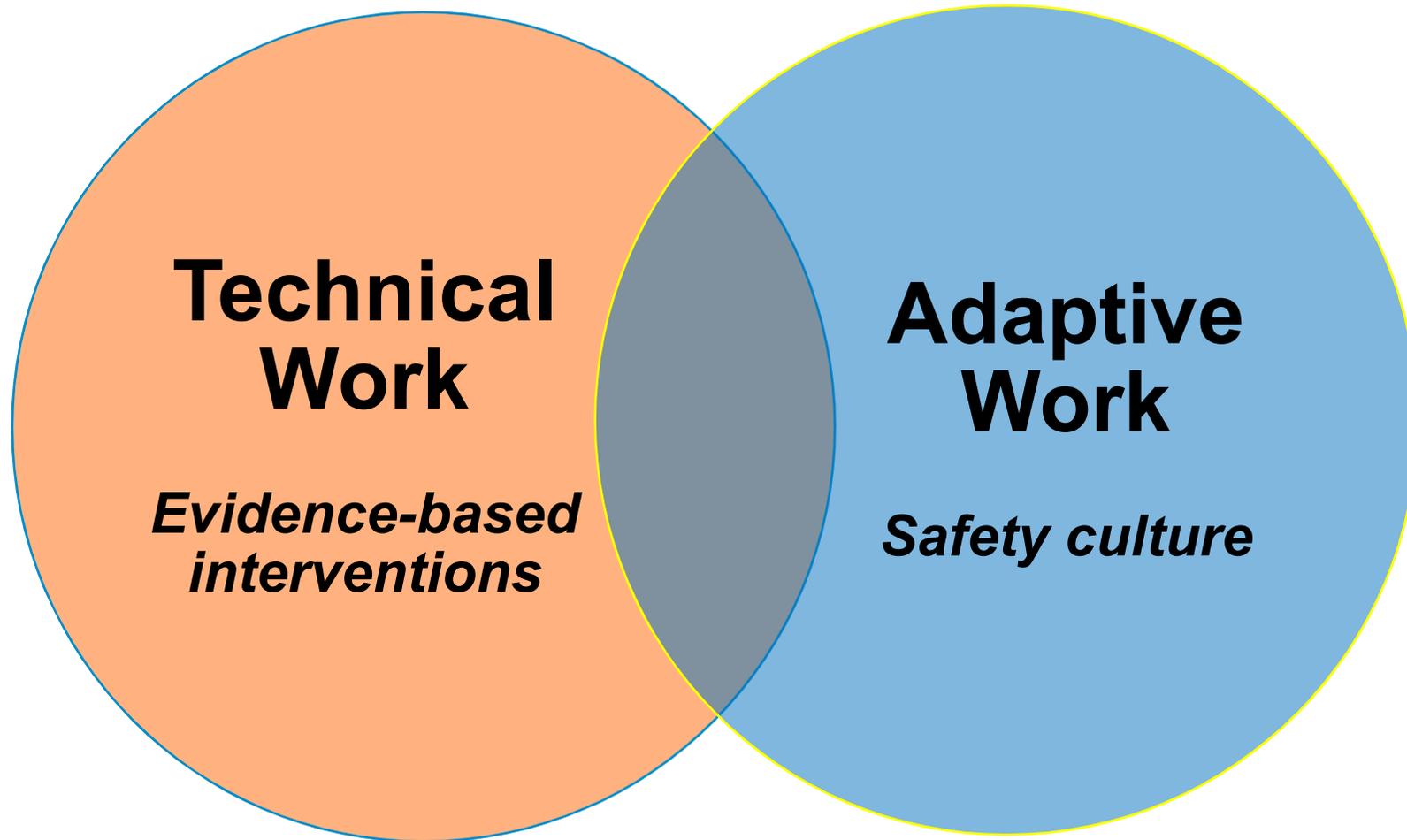


***Operational manual*** for  
the WHO SSI prevention  
recommendations.

This implementation  
manual is designed to be  
used by all persons  
concerned by the  
prevention of SSI in all  
health care settings,  
irrespective of the country.

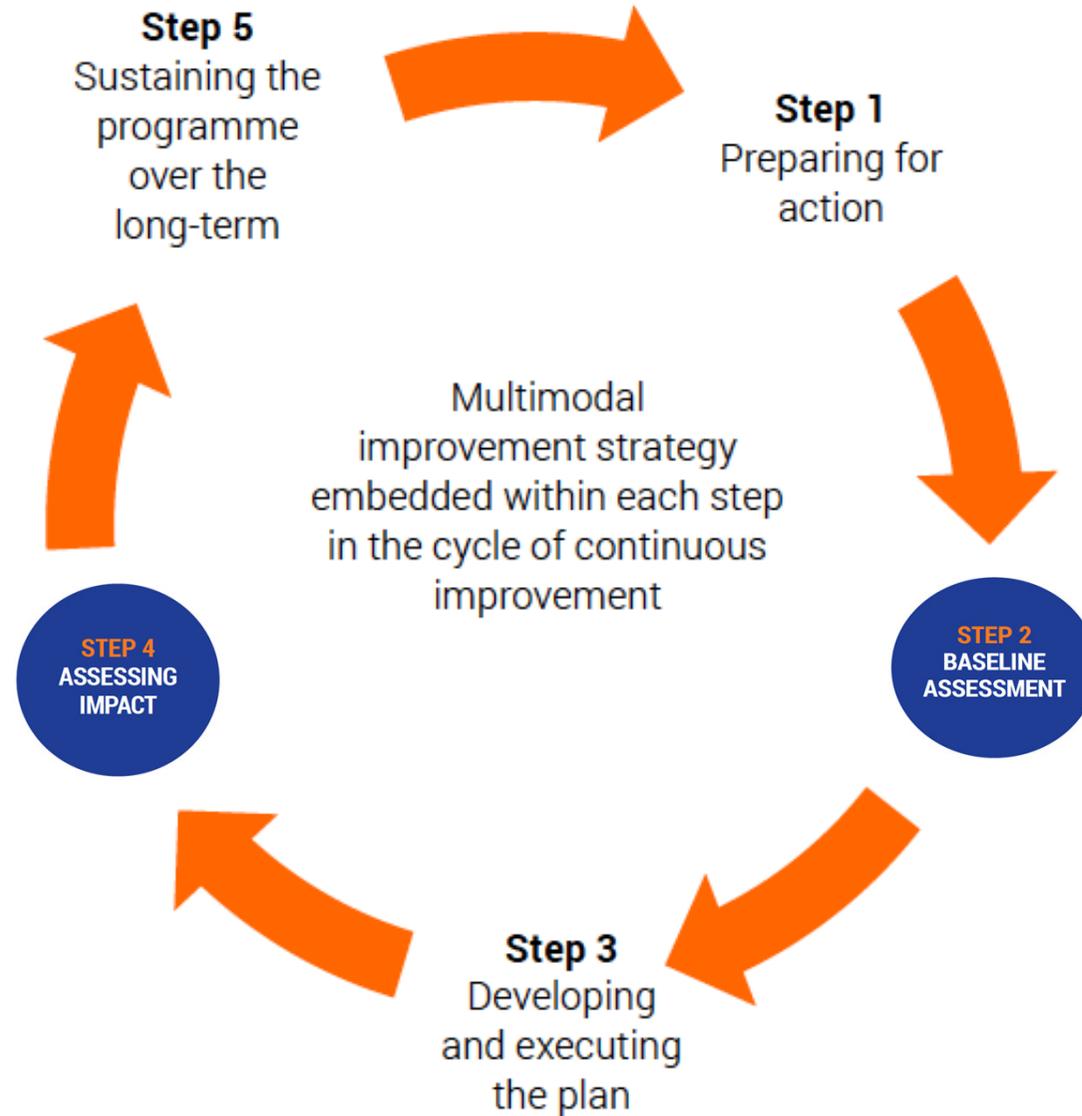
***Launched in December***  
***2018***

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>





# Stepwise approach



Source: <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/core-components/en/>

# Pilot testing the approach



Articles

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**A multimodal infection control and patient safety intervention to reduce surgical site infections in Africa: a multicentre, before-after, cohort study**

*Benedetta Allegranzi, Alexander M Aiken, Nejla Zeynep Kubilay, Petre Nihombia, Jack Barasa, Gabriel Okumu, Robert Muguruma, Alexander Erlaba, Josephat Jambwe, Mayaba Maimbo, Joseph Musowoya, Angèle Gayet-Agron, Sean M Berenholtz*

**Summary**  
Background Surgical site infections (SSIs) are the most frequent health-care-associated infections in developing countries. Specific prevention measures are highly effective, but are often poorly implemented. We aimed to establish the effect of a multimodal intervention on SSIs in Africa.

**Methods** We did a before-after cohort study. A multimodal intervention consisted of the combined with an adaptive approach aimed at adherence to SSI prevention measures within 30 days post surgery was assessed. Confounders.

**Findings** Four hospitals completed the baseline quality data for the sustainability period, 891 in the sustainability period. SSI 8.0% (95% CI 6.8-9.5; n=129) to 3.8% (period 3.9%, 2.8-5.4; n=35). A substantial observed in the follow-up and sustainability than pre-intervention (odds ratio [OR] 0.47, significantly reduced (0.72, 0.42-1.24; p=0.002).

**Interpretation** Implementation of our intervention across all perioperative prevention practices heterogeneity between sites. Further large improve the sustainability and long-term.

**Funding** US Agency for Healthcare Research and Services.

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**Introduction**  
Health-care-associated infections are common adverse events during care. Evidence exists on the morbidity, mortality health-care-associated infections in low and middle-income countries, but WHO estimates that the overall prevalence in these countries is higher than the average reported in high-income countries. According to WHO, surgical site infection is the most surveyed and most frequent health-care-associated infection in countries of low and middle income. SSI is also the second most frequent health-care-associated infection in Europe. Given the increasing recognition of the

www.thelancet.com/infectology Vol 17 May 2018

**Supplementary appendix**

This appendix formed part of the original submission and has been peer reviewed. We post it as supplied by the authors.

**Contents**

**Table S1:** Detailed description of the surgical site infection preventive measures implemented consistently across all sites, available implementation support documents, and process indicators used.

**Figure S1:** Poster/leaflet designed by the surgical teams to remind staff of the surgical site infection prevention measures implemented during the study intervention period.

**Figure S2:** Trends of the cumulative incidence of surgical site infection per 100 surgical operations by month in the three study periods for each site.

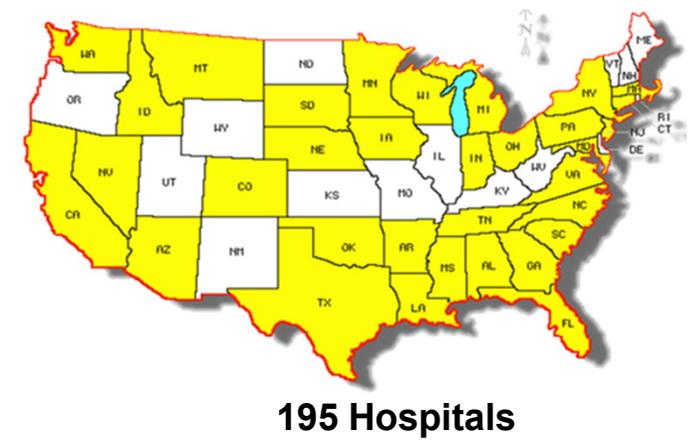
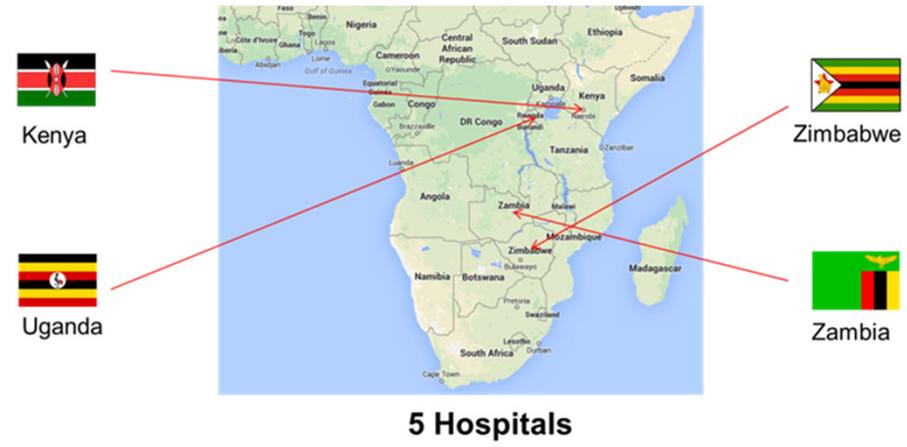
**Figure S3:** Results of an interrupted time series analysis assessing the trends of the cumulative incidence of SSI on a monthly basis between the baseline and follow-up periods by site (four sites).

**Figure S4:** Results of an interrupted time series analysis assessing the trends of cumulative incidence of surgical site infection on a monthly basis between the follow-up and sustainability periods by site (three sites).

**Fact sheet S1:** Patient preparation: bathing and hair removal. <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/surgical/en/> (accessed Feb 19, 2018).

**Fact sheet S2:** Surgical site skin preparation and surgical hand preparation. <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/surgical/en/> (accessed Feb 19, 2018).

**Fact sheet S3:** Correct and safe surgical antibiotic prophylaxis. <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/surgical/en/> (accessed Feb 19, 2018).



Allegranzi B, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2018 May;18(5):507-515. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30107-5  
 Clack L, et al. *Antimicrob Resist & Infect Control*, submitted





Organizational culture change

Modified  
WHO  
checklist

Pre-op Bath

No Hair removal

Surgical hand  
preparation

Surgical site skin  
preparation

OR discipline

Antibiotic prophylaxis

# Pilot testing the approach



Articles

## A multimodal infection control and patient safety intervention to reduce surgical site infections in Africa: a multicentre, before-after, cohort study

Benedetta Allegranzi, Alexander M Aiken, Nejla Zeynep Kubilay, Alexander Erlba, Josephat Jombwe, Mayaba Maimbo, Joseph M...

### Summary

**Background** Surgical site infections (SSIs) are the most common adverse events during care delivery. Evidence exists on the morbidity, mortality, and effect of health-care-associated infections in low-income and middle-income countries, but WHO estimates indicate that the overall prevalence in these countries is double the average reported in high-income countries. According to WHO, surgical site infection (SSI) is the most surveyed and most frequent health-care-associated infection in countries of low and middle income, and affect up to one-third of surgical patients. In low and middle income countries, the risk of SSI is significantly increased in countries of low and middle income. SSI affects all types of procedure, including clean surgery. SSI is also the second most common health-care-associated infection in Europe and the US. Given the increasing recognition of the need for w...

**Methods** We did a before-after cohort study, between 2015 and 2017. The multimodal intervention consisted of the implementation of a set of technical SSI preventive measures combined with an adaptive approach aimed at the implementation of patient safety culture. The primary outcome was the first occurrence of SSI, and the secondary outcome was adherence to SSI prevention measures were prospectively assessed within 30 days post surgery was assessed in a multicentre, before-after, cohort study.

**Findings** Four hospitals completed the baseline and quality data for the sustainability period. 4322 operations were performed during the sustainability period. SSI cumulative incidence was 8.0% (95% CI 6.8–9.5; n=129) to 3.8% (3.0–4.8; n=129) in the follow-up and sustainability periods, respectively. A substantial improvement was observed in the follow-up and sustainability periods, with a significant reduction in SSI rates (odds ratio [OR] 0.40, 95% CI 0.28–0.58; p<0.001).

**Interpretation** Implementation of our intervention across all perioperative prevention practices. A significant reduction in SSI rates was observed. Further large-scale evaluation is needed to improve the sustainability and long-term effect of the intervention.

**Funding** US Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

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### Introduction

Health-care-associated infections are one of the most common adverse events during care delivery. Evidence exists on the morbidity, mortality, and effect of health-care-associated infections in low-income and middle-income countries, but WHO estimates indicate that the overall prevalence in these countries is double the average reported in high-income countries. According to WHO, surgical site infection (SSI) is the most surveyed and most frequent health-care-associated infection in countries of low and middle income, and affect up to one-third of surgical patients. In low and middle income countries, the risk of SSI is significantly increased in countries of low and middle income. SSI affects all types of procedure, including clean surgery. SSI is also the second most common health-care-associated infection in Europe and the US. Given the increasing recognition of the need for w...

www.thelancet.com/infectology Vol 17 May 2018



	Hospital type	Setting	Intervention implementation activities common to all sites	Additional activities
Kijabe AIC Hospital, Kenya	Private, mission hospital, 360 beds	Rural	Technical SSI preventive measures*: patient preoperative bathing with plain or antiseptic soap; appropriate hair removal (avoidance of or using clippers); optimise patient skin preparation, including local production of alcohol-based and chlorhexidine-based skin disinfection product; optimise surgical hand preparation, including local production of alcohol-based hand rub product and appropriate rubbing technique; appropriate antibiotic prophylaxis based on locally formulated policy, given within 1-h preoperatively and discontinued postoperatively; improved operating theatre discipline, including limitation of the number of individuals and reduction of intraoperative movement.  Adaptive (team-working and safety) elements†: formation of local SUSP perioperative team; engagement of surgical leads and senior executives; patient safety culture survey; patient safety video played by local surgical leaders; use of CUSP adaptive tools, including Staff safety assessment and Learning from defects; morbidity and mortality meetings; participation in monthly multisite SUSP webinars; conduct of local educational meetings; feedback of data on SSI surveillance and compliance with the SSI preventive measures, including SSI rates.	Provision of antiseptic soap to patients for bathing; addition of food dye to alcohol-based skin preparation to aid visualisation of the application area around the incision site; leaflets explaining the intervention
Mulago Hospital, Uganda	Public sector, tertiary referral, 1500 beds	Urban		Better management of students to reduce crowding in operating theatres; work with hospital pharmacy to ensure an antibiotic supply for surgical prophylaxis; patient information card on surveillance in English and local language
Kisiizi Hospital, Uganda	Private, mission hospital, 260 beds	Rural		New locks and lockers in operating theatres to minimise staff movement during operations
Ndola Hospital, Zambia	Public sector, tertiary referral, 851 beds	Urban		Better management of students to reduce crowding in operating theatres

Figure 1: Characteristics of the four participating hospitals and activities implemented during the intervention

Due to unforeseen local difficulties, one site (Zimbabwe) was unable to recruit adequate numbers of patients and was not included in the analysis. SSI=surgical site infection. SUSP=Surgical Unit-based Safety Programme. CUSP=Comprehensive Unit-based Safety Programme. \*Support materials related to the technical SSI preventive measures are available at <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/countries/surgical/en/> (see appendix). †Materials from the CUSP study used in this project are available at <https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/hais/tools/surgery/index.html>.

Allegranzi B, et al. *Lancet Infect Dis*. 2018 May;18(5):507-515. doi: 10.1016/S1473-3099(18)30107-5  
 Clack L, et al. *Antimicrob Resist & Infect Control*, submitted



# Example adaptive tools – addressing the culture



## CUSP for Safe Surgery Perioperative Staff Safety Assessment

**Purpose of this form:** The purpose of this form is to tap into your experiences at the frontlines of patient care to find out what risks jeopardize patient safety in your clinical area.

**Who should complete this form:** All staff members.

**How to complete this form:** Provide as much detail as possible when answering the 4 questions. Drop off your completed safety assessment form in the location designated by the SUSP team.

**When to complete this form:** Any staff member can complete this form at any time.

CUSP for Safe Surgery (SUSP)  
Safety Issues Worksheet for Senior Executive Partnership

**Date of Safety Rounds:**

**Unit:**

**Attendees:**

- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
  - 5.
  - 6.
  - 7.
- (Please use back of form for additional attendees.)

## CUSP for Safe Surgery (SUSP) Executive Safety Rounds Kickoff Template

## The Learning From Defects Tool



Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality

Armstrong Institute for Patient Safety and Quality

# Impact on preventive measures

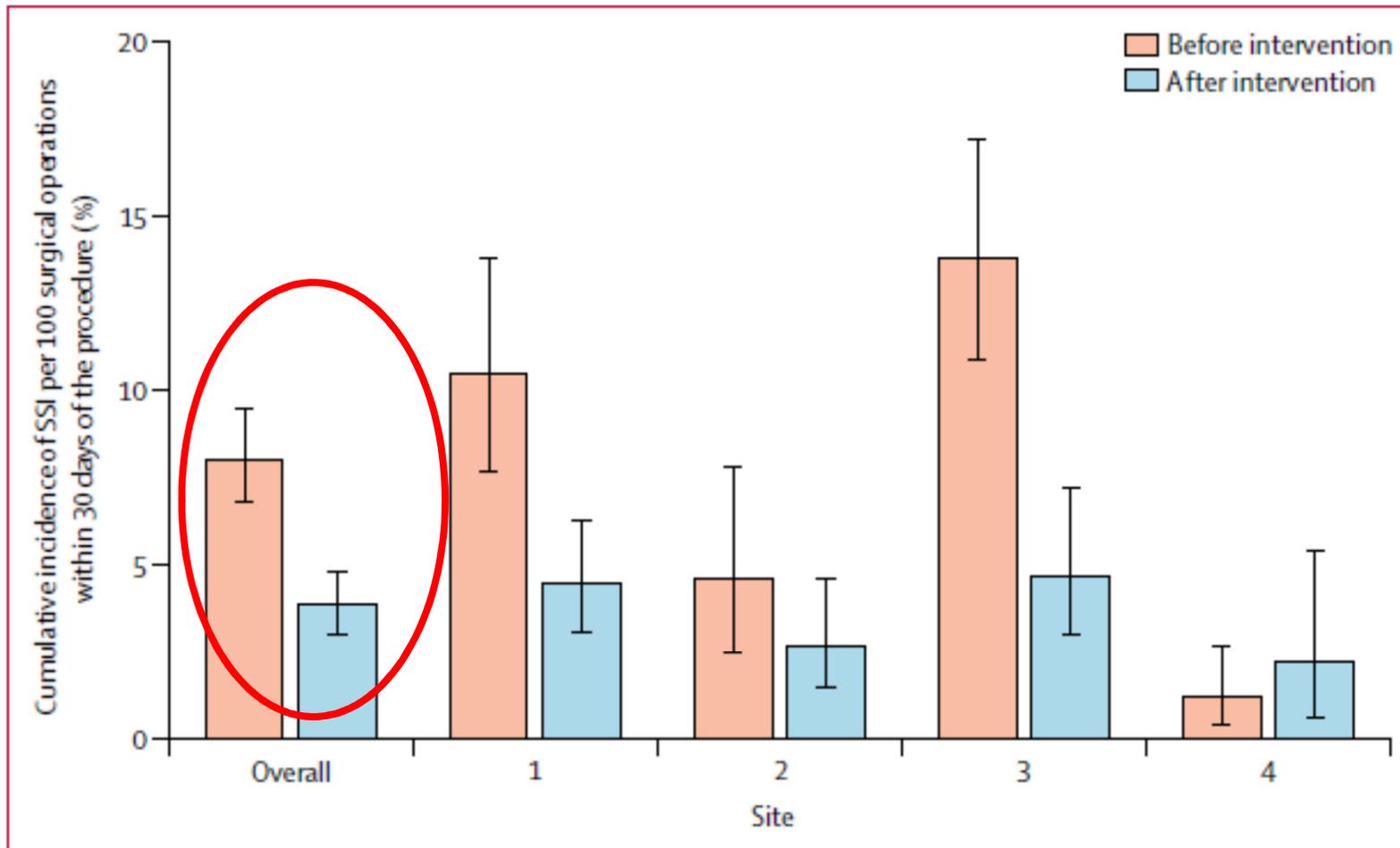


	Baseline (n=1604)	Follow-up (n=1827)	p value	Sustainability period (n=891)
Preoperative patient bathing (n=4321, 0.02%)	1238 (77.2)	1544 (84.5)	<0.0001	799 (89.7)
Appropriate hair removal (n=4310, 0.3%)	1169 (73.1)	1702 (93.5)	<0.0001	880 (98.8)
Appropriate skin preparation (n=4307, 0.3%)	330 (20.7)	1644 (90.2)	<0.0001	845 (94.8)
Quality of surgical hand preparation (n=4223, 2.3%)	1213 (78.7)	1694 (94.4)	<0.0001	865 (97.4)
Appropriate use of antibiotic prophylaxis (n=4322, 0%)	205 (12.8)	714 (39.1)	<0.0001	635 (71.3)
<b>Theatre discipline</b>				
Theatre door openings per hour of operation time (n=4031, 6.7%)	14.8 (17.8)	14.2 (16.1)	0.3771	19.0 (21.6)
Number of individuals present at the start of the operation (n=4313, 0.2%)	8.3 (3.4)	7.7 (2.5)	<0.0001	7.4 (2.5)
Number of entries during the operation (n=4236, 2.0%)	5.0 (4.1)	4.8 (4.9)	0.1758	4.2 (2.7)

Data are mean (SD). Data per variable and percentage missing data are also given. SSI=surgical site infection.

**Table 2: Process indicators for SSI prevention intervention measures across study periods in four (baseline and follow-up) and three (sustainability period) hospitals**

# Impact on SSI



**Figure 2: Unadjusted SSI cumulative incidence overall and by site at baseline and follow-up in four sites**  
Error bars show 95% CIs. SSI=surgical site infection.

# Summary of success factors for SSI prevention implementation



- **Use of multimodal strategies**
- Having a **dedicated multidisciplinary team and a step-wise action plan**
- Mapping recommendations according to the surgical patient journey
- Empowering teams involving front-line staff and letting teams take the lead on adaptation
- Engaging leadership
- Catalysing collective and individual ownership
- **Using data to create awareness**
- Awarding teams and work demonstrating a safety culture spirit

# IPC improvement strategy: multimodal thinking



In other words, the WHO multimodal improvement strategy addresses these five areas:

### 1. Build it (system change)

What infrastructures, equipment, supplies and other resources (including human) are required to implement the intervention?

Does the physical environment influence health worker behaviour? How can ergonomics and human factors approaches facilitate adoption of the intervention?

Are certain types of health workers needed to implement the intervention?

**Practical example:** when implementing hand hygiene interventions, ease of access to handrubs at the point of care and the availability of WASH infrastructures (including water and soap) are important considerations. Are these available, affordable and easily accessible in the workplace? If not, action is needed.

### 2. Teach it (training & education)

Who needs to be trained? What type of training should be used to ensure that the intervention will be implemented in line with evidence-based policies and how frequently?

Does the facility have trainers, training aids, and the necessary equipment?

**Practical example:** when implementing injection safety interventions, timely training of those responsible for administering safe injections, including carers and community workers, are important considerations, as well as adequate disposal methods.

### 3. Check it (monitoring & feedback)

How can you identify the gaps in IPC practices or other indicators in your setting to allow you to prioritize your intervention?

How can you be sure that the intervention is being implemented correctly and safely, including at the bedside? For example, are there methods in place to observe or track practices?

How and when will feedback be given to the target audience and managers? How can patients also be informed?

**Practical example:** when implementing surgical site infection interventions, the use of key tools are important considerations, such as surveillance data collection forms and the WHO checklist (adapted to local conditions).

### 4. Sell it (reminders & communications)

How are you promoting an intervention to ensure that there are cues to action at the point of care and messages are reinforced to health workers and patients?

Do you have capacity/funding to develop promotional messages and materials?

**Practical example:** when implementing interventions to reduce catheter-associated bloodstream infection, the use of visual cues to action, promotional/reinforcing messages, and planning for periodic campaigns are important considerations.

### 5. Live it (culture change)

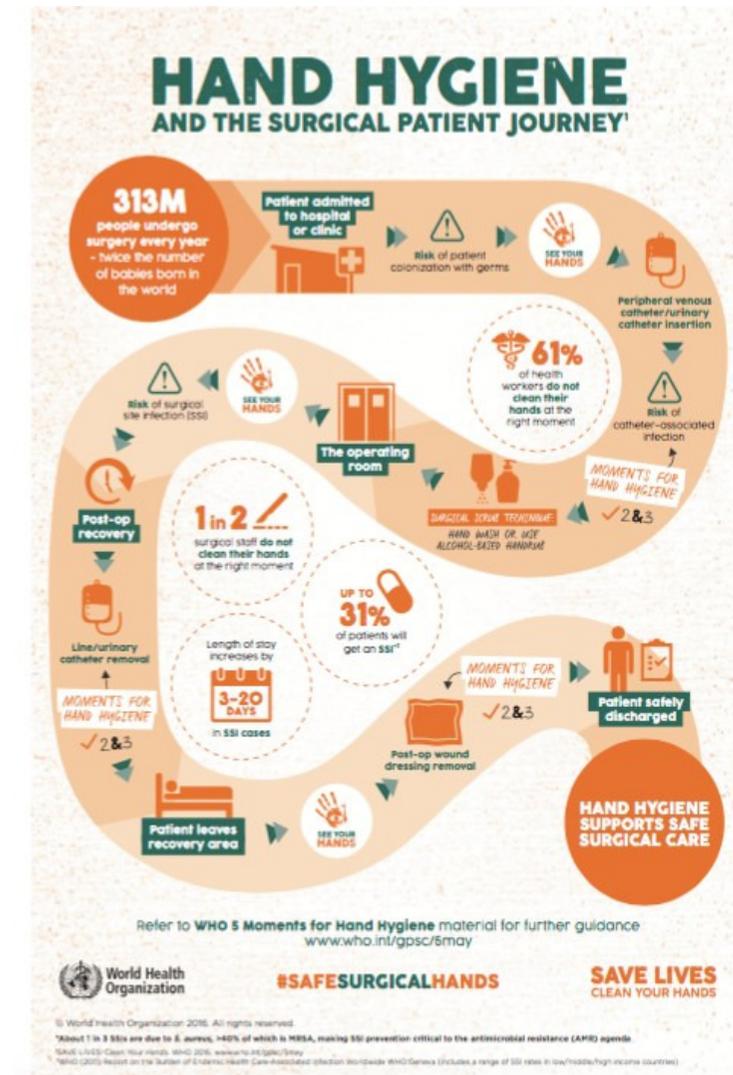
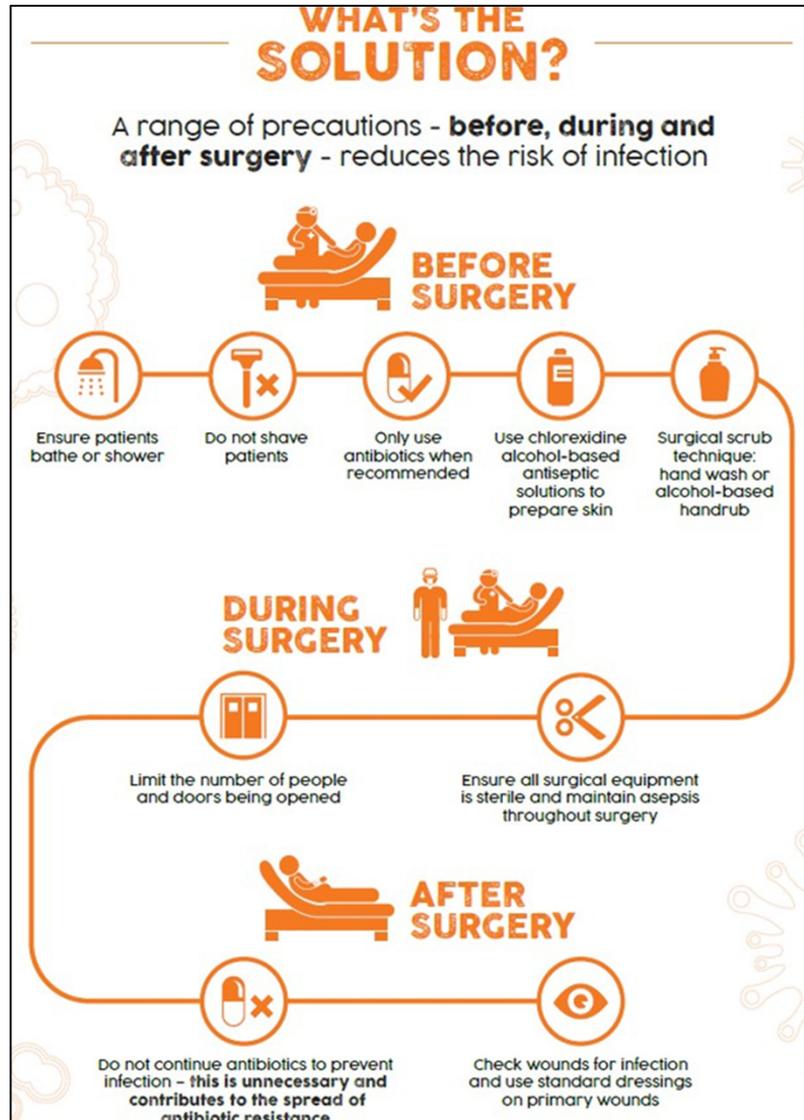
Is there demonstrable support for the intervention at every level of the health system? For example, do senior managers provide funding for equipment and other resources? Are they willing to be champions and role models for IPC improvement?

Are teams involved in co-developing or adapting the intervention? Are they empowered and do they feel ownership and the need for accountability?

**Practical example:** when implementing hand hygiene interventions, the way that a health facility approaches this as part of safety and quality improvement and the value placed on hand hygiene improvement as part of the clinical workflow are important considerations.

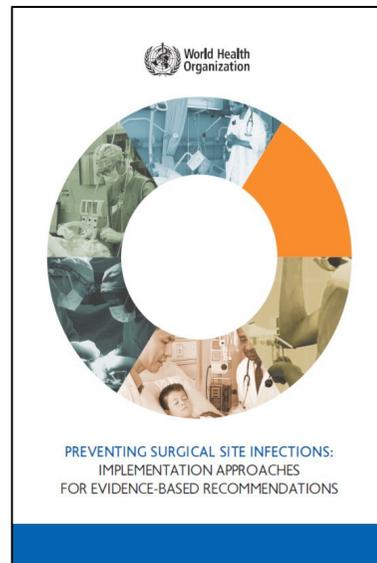
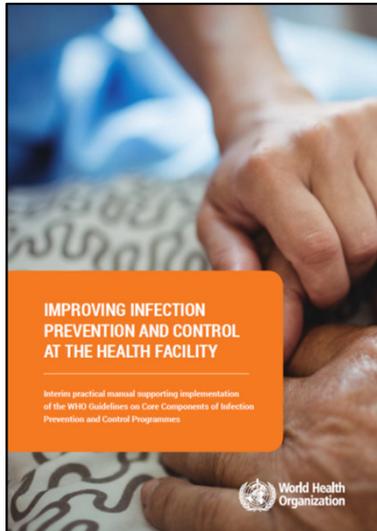
## Multidisciplinary team

# Integration of hand hygiene in the flow of patient care

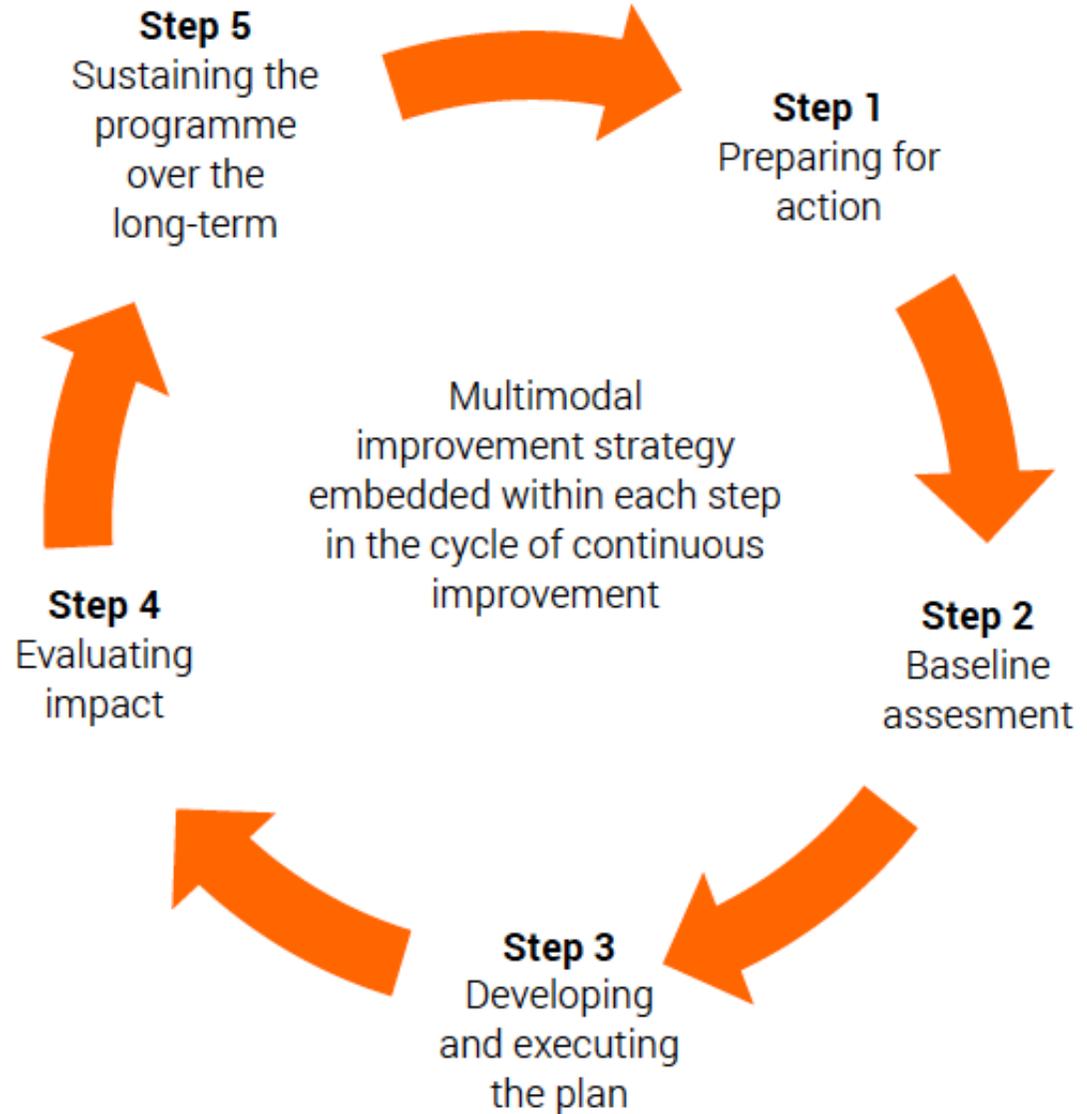


Source: <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/reminders-advocacy/en/>

# A WHO implementation framework



## Stepwise approach



Sources: <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/core-components/en>

Preventing surgical site infections: implementation approaches for evidence-based recommendations. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 (<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>).



**IMPLEMENTATION MANUAL**  
to support prevention of  
surgical site infections at the facility level  
**TURNING RECOMMENDATIONS**  
**INTO PRACTICE**

(INTERIM VERSION)



Build it



Teach it



Check it



Sell it



Live it



***Operational manual*** for  
the WHO SSI prevention  
recommendations.

This implementation  
manual is designed to be  
used by all persons  
concerned by the  
prevention of SSI in all  
health care settings,  
irrespective of the country.

***Launched in December***  
***2018***

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>

# Bringing improvement to life



- Example Scenario
- Problem
- Case study

What has to be addressed to make the improvement required?	Why?	When?	Who should be responsible?	How should you make the improvement?
<b>ELEMENTS OF THE MULTIMODAL STRATEGY - THE "HOW OF IMPROVEMENT"</b>				
	<b>SYSTEM CHANGE</b> ('built it') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include clear instructions about SAP discontinuation within the locally adapted SAP protocol.*</li> <li>• Put in place/improve a sustainable system to ensure that SAP orders are not continued after the operation (connected to electronic patient records, if existing).</li> </ul>		
	<b>TRAINING AND EDUCATION</b> ('teach it') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put in place/improve a reliable mechanism for producing/ using updated training resources and information for staff (surgical team, nursing staff and pharmacy) on appropriate SAP according to the local protocol, with an emphasis on the need for SAP discontinuation, including the available evidence.</li> </ul>		
	<b>MONITORING AND FEEDBACK</b> ('check it') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put in place/improve a monitoring, reporting and feedback system (including roles and responsibilities) regarding:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– staff knowledge and perception about prolonging SAP;</li> <li>– frequency and reasons for SAP prolongation;</li> <li>– SSI rates.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	<b>COMMUNICATIONS AND REMINDERS</b> ('sell it') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In collaboration with staff, develop/adapt reminders and agree upon their most relevant placement to highlight discontinuation of SAP. Develop in various formats targeted to individuals (or teams) who consistently prolong SAP.</li> </ul>		
	<b>SAFETY CLIMATE AND CULTURE CHANGE</b> ('live it') 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engage leaders and champions among surgical and anaesthesiology staff to drive change on SAP discontinuation.</li> <li>• Organize meetings and focus group discussions with all the right people to discuss the reasons for discontinuing SAP in the context of the local protocol.</li> <li>• Engage senior management to issue messages on a regular basis to support SAP discontinuation that are also linked to reducing AMR in the facility.</li> </ul>		

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>

# New WHO implementation package for SSI prevention



## Infection prevention and control

- Home page
- About us
- Campaigns
- Implementation tools and resources
- Evidence, guidelines and publications
- Work in countries
- News and events

### Surgical site infections tools and resources

A range of tools exist for you to adopt and adapt to support local improvement. They are proven to achieve change if used as part of a multi-modal strategy as represented in the 5 components listed here.

Link to Global guidelines on the prevention of surgical site infection publications page

- System change
- Training and education
- Evaluation and feedback
- Communications for awareness raising
- Institutional safety climate and culture



<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>

# WHO core component 5 for effective IPC



## Strong recommendation: multimodal strategies

- **National level:** national IPC programmes should coordinate and facilitate the implementation of IPC activities through multimodal strategies on a nationwide or subnational level.
  - **Facility level:** IPC activities using multimodal strategies should be implemented to improve practices and reduce HAI and AMR.
- A **multimodal strategy** comprises **several elements or components** (three or more; usually five) implemented in an **integrated way** with the **aim of improving an outcome and changing behaviour**. It includes tools, such as bundles and checklists, developed by multidisciplinary teams that take into account local conditions.
  - The five most common components are: (i) **system change** (availability of the appropriate infrastructure and supplies to enable IPC recommendations implementation); (ii) **education and training** of health care workers and key players; (iii) **monitoring** infrastructures, practices, processes, outcomes and providing data **feedback**; (iv) **reminders** in the workplace/**communications**; and (v) **culture change** within the establishment or the strengthening of a safety climate.

# Understanding the multimodal strategy for SSI prevention (1)



## System change

### ***“Build it”***

- *Ensuring that the health care facility has the **necessary infrastructure and resources in place** to allow for steps to be taken to prevent SSI based on the known modifiable risk factors*
- The right infrastructure and available resources can streamline interventions for consistent delivery of care and make execution easier and safer.

# System change - “Build it” (cont’)

## *Necessary infrastructure and resources*



- Allocated budget
- Standard operating procedures, protocols, local policies and tools/mechanisms for training
- An IT system (or paper) for monitoring and feedback on infrastructure and resources and other improvement steps
- Laboratory services
- Surgical services/human resources including a dedicated, competent team for ensuring SSI prevention activities working to an action plan
- Supplies for surgical hand preparation\*
  - ABHR, antimicrobial soap
  - Sterile drapes and gowns
  - The correct antibiotics for SAP (and if need to be given with MBP) - easily accessible
  - Clippers (if hair removal essential)
  - Chlorhexidine- alcohol-based (skin prep) solution\*
  - Mupirocin 2% ointment
  - Oxygen
  - Standard postoperative wound dressings

### To consider:

- Antimicrobial-coated sutures
- Negative pressure wound therapy devices
- Nutritional formulas
- Warming devices
- Fluid therapy
- Aqueous povidone iodine solution (irrigation)

\* Procurement vs local production

# Understanding the multimodal strategy for SSI prevention (2)



## Training and education – “Teach it”

- *Practical training and education methods aligned with the recommendations for SSI prevention*
- Onsite hospital courses
- Bolus (single relatively large) sessions
- Simulation sessions for skills training
- Use of locally made or online videos
- Online e.learning courses and webinars
- Focus groups and workshops
- Bedside training
- In-person sessions, e.g. during ward or grand rounds, town hall meetings, coaching visits
- Pre and post knowledge and perception tests
- Training support materials (handouts, e-learning, etc.)

# Understanding the multimodal strategy for SSI prevention (3)



## Evaluation and feedback

### “Check it”

*Regular monitoring and timely feedback of:*

- *risk factors for SSI;*
- *compliance with recommended procedures and practices;*
- *infrastructures and available resources and supplies;*
- *knowledge and perception of the problem;*
- *SSI rates.*

It should not be seen as a component separate from implementation or only to be used for scientific purposes. Targeted tools and use of observations are inherent.

This is an essential step in:

- identifying areas deserving major efforts and feeding crucial information into development of local local action plan;
- measuring the changes induced by improvement efforts and ascertaining whether interventions have been effective;
- engaging staff in deciding upon different formats for providing feedback (real time and personalised feedback have proven beneficial).

# Understanding the multimodal strategy for SSI prevention (4)



## Reminders and communications

### “Sell it”

- *Reminding and prompting health care workers about the importance of practices to prevent SSI when they are working at the point of care*
  - *Informing patients and their visitors of the standard of care that they should expect to receive*
  - *Communications to inform senior leaders and decision-makers regarding the standards that they should assure*
- Posters
  - Leaflets
  - Banners
  - Stickers
  - Flowcharts
  - Infographics
  - Letter templates
  - Advocacy messages suitable to the local setting, e.g. memos
  - Manuals
  - Electronic reminders (built in to hospital IT system)
  - Telephone call (including for patient reminders)

# Understanding the multimodal strategy for SSI prevention (5)



## Institutional safety climate and culture

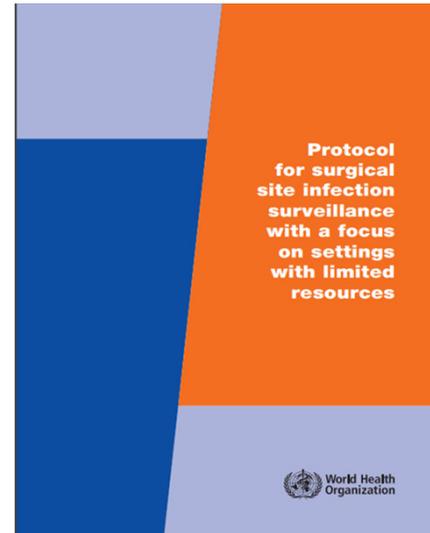
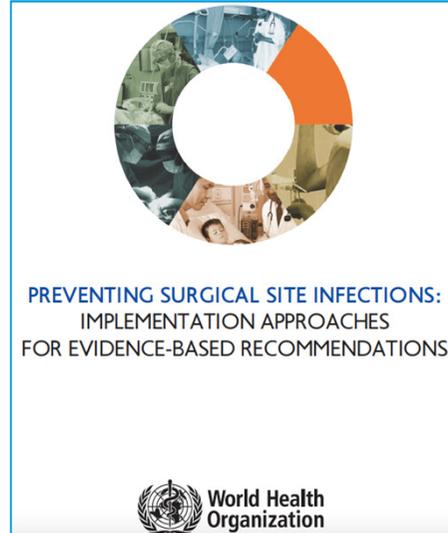
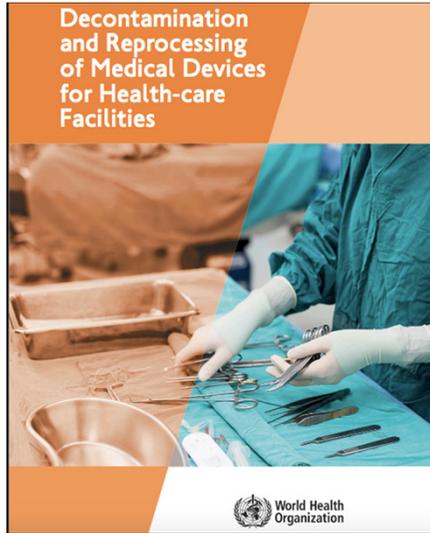
### ***“Live it”***

*Creating an **environment and the perceptions** that facilitate awareness-raising about SSI prevention at all levels:*

- *a climate that understands and prioritizes surgical safety issues;*
- *team spirit and cohesion;*
- *awareness of self-capacity to make a change, ownership of the intervention.*

- Motivated, multidisciplinary well functioning teams
- Champions
- Role models
- Visible leadership including on ward/grand rounds, through photographs and signatures
- Morbidity and mortality meetings including senior hospital staff – to learn from defects and facilitate sharing for improvement
- Advocacy messages from leaders (delivered in a timely manner)

# Recently launched WHO SSI Prevention Implementation Package



## SURGICAL SITE INFECTION PREVENTION

### Key facts on decolonization of nasal carriers of *Staphylococcus aureus*

**THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW**  
What does the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend?

The 2016 WHO Global guidelines for the prevention of surgical site infections recommend that patients with known nasal carriage of *Staphylococcus aureus* undergo:

- cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgery should be decolonized using intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG) body wash (strong recommendation);
- other types of surgery – treatment with intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash **may be considered** (conditional recommendation).

This recommendation applies to facilities where screening for *S. aureus* is feasible and may not apply to settings with a high prevalence of mupirocin resistance. Based on the lack of evidence, this recommendation is **not** applicable to paediatric patients.

**WHAT should be done?**



### HANDLE ANTIBIOTICS WITH CARE IN SURGERY

Misuse of antibiotics puts all surgical patients at risk

- Up to 33% of surgical patients get a postoperative infection, of which 51% can be antibiotic-resistant
- Up to 19% of women around the world get an infection after a caesarean section
- 43% of patients have surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) inappropriately continued after the operation
- Reduce the risk of surgical site infection (SSI) by improving SAP and antibiotic prophylaxis and reduce practices
- Improve quality of care and patient safety and reduce antibiotic resistance (AMR) through SSI reduction

**WHAT SHOULD HEALTH WORKERS DO TO PREVENT AMR IN SURGERY?**

- Give intravenous SAP when recommended. Depending on the type of operation, within 120 minutes preceding surgical incision.
- For effective SAP, adequate antibiotic doses concentrations should be present at the time of surgical incision and throughout the operation. Thus, antibiotics with a short half-life should be administered closer to incision time.
- Implementation of antibiotic use in surgical services should be part of the antimicrobial stewardship programme.

**WHAT SHOULD YOU NOT DO?**

- Avoid prolonging SAP postoperatively
- Avoid antibiotic wound irrigation
- Avoid continuing antibiotic prophylaxis because there is a dose (toxicity) each case!
- Avoid giving antibiotic treatment unless there is a proven or suspected SSI or other infection

These recommendations are based on evidence from studies in adult patients. All they are considered valid also for paediatric patients.

## Advanced Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Training

### Prevention of surgical site infection (SSI)

World Health Organization

## Fact sheets on SSI recommendations

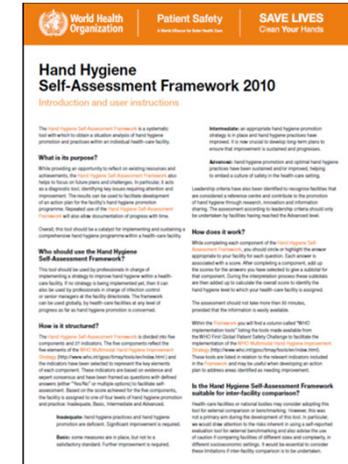
- Support access to necessary products – provision to patients may be required or desirable in some countries:
  - nasal mupirocin 2% ointment
  - CHG 2-4% soap body wash.
- For most types of surgery, encourage patients to detect *S. aureus* carriage – consider the local rates of *S. aureus* and methicillin-resistant *S. aureus* (MRSA) and patient-related factors. Specifically look for previous *S. aureus*

<http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/en/>



# WHO 2019 Global Survey on Infection Prevention and Control and Hand Hygiene

## Facility-level assessments in a spirit of improvement



16 January – 16 July

All health care facilities and countries are invited to participate!

Find instructions here <https://www.who.int/infection-prevention/campaigns/ipc-global-survey-2019/en/>

# System change: modified WHO formulations for surgical hand preparation



## *Formulation I*

Final concentrations: ethanol 80% wt/wt, glycerol 0.725% vol/vol, hydrogen peroxide 0.125% vol/vol.

### **Ingredients:**

1. ethanol (absolute), **800 g**
2. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (3%), 4.17 ml
3. glycerol (98%), **7.25 ml** (or 7.25 x 1.26 = 9.135 g)
4. top up to **1000 g** with distilled or boiled water

#### *Sources:*

- Suchomel M KM, Kundi M, Pittet D, Rotter ML. Modified World Health Organization hand rub formulations comply with European efficacy requirements for preoperative surgical hand preparations. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol.* 2013; 34(3):245–250.
- Allegranzi B, Aiken AM, Zeynep Kubilay N, Nthumba P, Barasa J, Okumu G et al. A multimodal infection control and patient safety intervention to reduce surgical site infections in Africa: a multicentre, before–after, cohort study. *Lancet Infect Dis.* 2018; 18(5):507–515.

## *Formulation II*

Final concentrations: isopropanol 75% wt/wt, glycerol 0.725% vol/vol, hydrogen peroxide 0.125% vol/vol.

### **Ingredients:**

1. isopropanol (absolute), **750 g**
2. H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> (30%), **4.17 ml**
3. glycerol (98%), **7.25 ml** (or 7.25 x 1.26 = 9.135 g)
4. top up to **1000 g** with distilled water



# Education and training example: improving surgical hand preparation

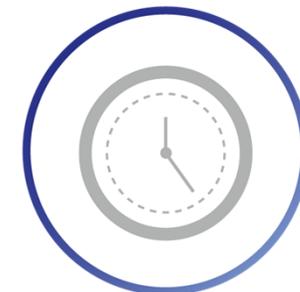


## 1. Local production of modified WHO formulation for ABHR



## 2. Surgical hand preparation

- **Antimicrobial soap + water** = 2–5 minutes
- **Alcohol-based** = 1.5–3 minutes
- The right technique is crucial
- Nailbrushes are not recommended.



# Education and training example

## Surgical Handrubbing Technique

- Handwash with soap and water on arrival to OR, after having donned theatre clothing (cap/hat/bonnet and mask).
- Use an alcohol-based handrub (ABHR) product for surgical hand preparation, by carefully following the technique illustrated in Images 1 to 17, before every surgical procedure.
- If any residual talc or biological fluids are present when gloves are removed following the operation, handwash with soap and water.



1

Put approximately 5ml (3 doses) of ABHR in the palm of your left hand, using the elbow of your other arm to operate the dispenser.



2

Dip the fingertips of your right hand in the handrub to decontaminate under the nails (5 seconds).



3



4



5



6



7

Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h16JPBcOIGs>

# Monitoring example – observation tools



**World Health Organization** | **Patient Safety** | **SAVE LIVES**  
A World Alliance for Safer Health Care | Clean Your Hands

### Observation Form

**Facility:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Period Number\*:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Session Number\*:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Service:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** (dd/mm/yy) \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ **Observer:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Ward:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Start/End time:** (hh:mm) \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ : \_\_\_\_\_ **Page N°:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Department:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Session duration:** (mm) \_\_\_\_\_ **City\*\*:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Country\*\*:** \_\_\_\_\_

Prof.cat Code N°	Prof.cat Code N°	Prof.cat Code N°	Prof.cat Code N°
<b>Opp.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> bef.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> bef.asept. <input type="checkbox"/> aft-b.f. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.p.surr.	<b>Indication</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HR <input type="checkbox"/> HW <input type="radio"/> missed <input type="checkbox"/> gloves	<b>Opp.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> bef.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> bef.asept. <input type="checkbox"/> aft-b.f. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.p.surr.	<b>Indication</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HR <input type="checkbox"/> HW <input type="radio"/> missed <input type="checkbox"/> gloves
<b>Opp.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> bef.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> bef.asept. <input type="checkbox"/> aft-b.f. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.p.surr.	<b>Indication</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HR <input type="checkbox"/> HW <input type="radio"/> missed <input type="checkbox"/> gloves	<b>Opp.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> bef.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> bef.asept. <input type="checkbox"/> aft-b.f. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.pat. <input type="checkbox"/> aft.p.surr.	<b>Indication</b> <input type="checkbox"/> HR <input type="checkbox"/> HW <input type="radio"/> missed <input type="checkbox"/> gloves

### Surgical site infection surveillance peri-operative data collection form

<b>ID</b>	<b>Patient name</b>	<b>Age/Date of birth</b> ...../...../.....	<b>InPatient number</b>	<b>Date of admission</b> ...../...../.....
	<b>Primary diagnosis</b>	<b>Sex</b> <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> M	<b>Surveillance number</b>	

**1** **Surgical procedure**..... **Operating theater** [ ]  
**Date of surgery**..... **Lead surgeon name**.....  
**Grade**.....

**2** **ASA class**  
 1. Normal healthy person  
 2. Mild systemic disease (e.g. hypertension, well controlled diabetes)  
 3. Severe systemic disease not incapacitating (e.g. moderate COPD, diabetes, malignancy)  
 4. Incapacitating systemic disease that is a constant threat to life (e.g. pre-eclampsia, heavy bleeding)  
 5. Moribund patient, not expected to survive with or without operation (e.g. major trauma)

**3** **Surgical wound class**  
 Clean  = Sterile tissue with no resident bacteria e.g. neurosurgery  
 Clean-contaminated  = CONTROLLED entry to tissue with resident bacteria e.g. hysterectomy  
 Contaminated  = UNCONTROLLED entry to tissue with bacteria e.g. acute gastrointestinal perforation  
 Dirty / infected  = Heavy contamination (e.g. soil in wound) or infection already established

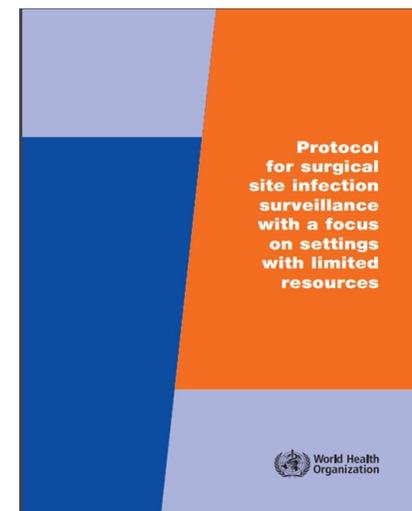
**4** **Start time (knife to skin)** [ : ] 24h clock  
**End time (skin closure)** [ : ] 24h clock  
**Duration =** .....hrs .....mins

**Urgency of operation**  
 Emergency – must be done immediately to save life (e.g. major bleed)  
 Urgent – must be done within 24-48h (e.g. repair of fracture)  
 Semi-elective – must be done within days-weeks (e.g. tumour removal)  
 Elective – no time constraints (e.g. cosmetic procedure)

**Weight**.....kg  
**Height**.....cm

**Sources:**

- [http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/hand-hygiene/evaluation\\_feedback/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/hand-hygiene/evaluation_feedback/en/)
- Protocol for surgical site infection surveillance with a focus on settings with limited resources. Geneva: World Health Organization; 2018 ([http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/evaluation\\_feedback/en/](http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/evaluation_feedback/en/)).



# Reminders

## Surgical Handrubbing Technique

- Handwash with soap and water on arrival to OR, after having donned theatre clothing (cap/hat/bonnet and mask).
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- If any residual talc or biological fluids are present when gloves are removed following the operation, handwash with soap and water.



1 Put approximately 5ml (3 doses) of ABHR in the palm of your left hand, using the elbow of your other arm to operate the dispenser.



2 Dip the fingertips of your right hand in the handrub to decontaminate under the nails (5 seconds).



3



4



5



6



7

Images 3-7: Smear the handrub on the right forearm up to the elbow. Ensure that the whole skin area is covered by using circular movements around the forearm until the handrub has fully evaporated (10-15 seconds).



8



9



10



11



12

Images 8-10: Now repeat steps 1-7 for the left hand and forearm.

Put approximately 5ml (3 doses) of ABHR in the palm of your left hand as illustrated, to rub both hands at the same time up to the wrists, following all steps in images 12-17 (20-30 seconds).

Cover the whole surface of the hands up to the wrist with ABHR, rubbing palm against palm with a rotating movement.



13



14



15



16



17

Rub the back of the left hand, including the wrist, moving the right palm back and forth, and vice-versa.

Rub palm against palm back and forth with fingers interlinked.

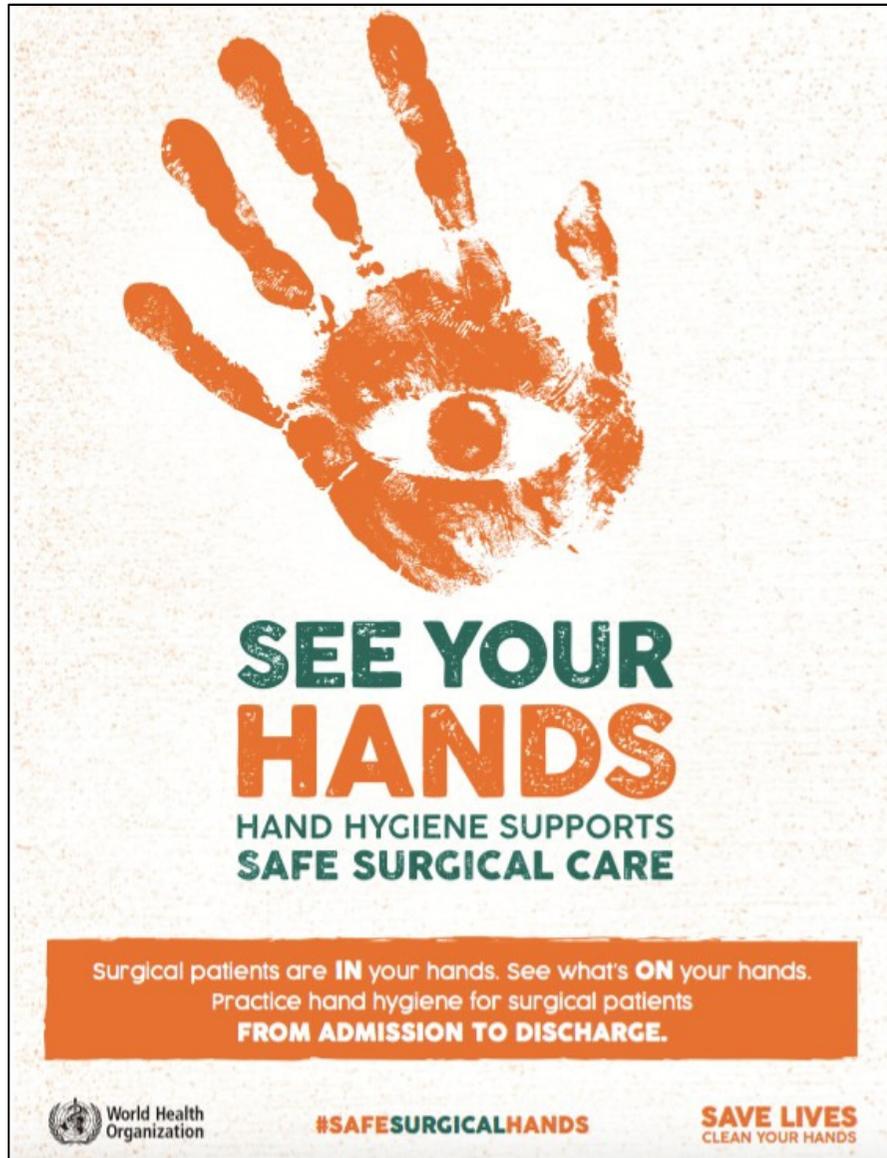
Rub the back of the fingers by holding them in the palm of the other hand with a sideways back and forth movement.

Rub the thumb of the left hand by rotating it in the clasped palm of the right hand and vice versa.

When the hands are dry, sterile surgical clothing and gloves can be donned.

Repeat this sequence (average 60 sec) the number of times that adds up to the total duration recommended by the ABHR manufacturer's instructions. This could be two or even three times.

# Reminders and communications: campaigning poster

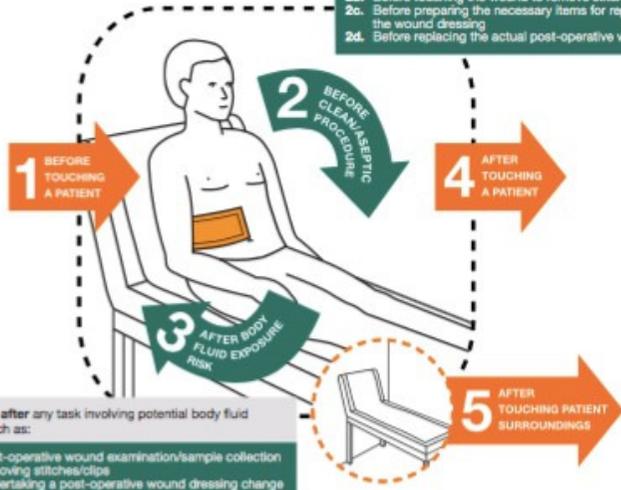


Source: [http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/A4\\_hh-poster-visual-EN.pdf?ua=1](http://www.who.int/gpsc/5may/A4_hh-poster-visual-EN.pdf?ua=1)



# Reminders: embedding hand hygiene in the surgical patient's journey

## My 5 Moments for Hand Hygiene Focus on caring for a patient with a post-operative wound



**1 BEFORE TOUCHING A PATIENT**

**2 BEFORE ASEPTIC PROCEDURE**

**3 AFTER BODY FLUID EXPOSURE RISK**

**4 AFTER TOUCHING A PATIENT**

**5 AFTER TOUCHING PATIENT SURROUNDINGS**

**Immediately before touching the post-operative wound dressing/site, for example:**

- Before physically examining the post-operative wound site, including before taking wound samples for microbiological investigations, if required
- Before touching the wound to remove stitches/clips
- Before preparing the necessary items for replacing the wound dressing
- Before replacing the actual post-operative wound dressing

**Immediately after any task involving potential body fluid exposure, such as:**

- After post-operative wound examination/sample collection
- After removing stitches/clips
- After undertaking a post-operative wound dressing change

**Key additional considerations for post-operative wounds**

- Avoid unnecessary touching of the post-operative wound site, including by the patient.
- Wear gloves if contact with body fluids is anticipated; the need for hand hygiene does not change even if gloves are worn, as per the WHO 5 Moments.
- Follow local procedures regarding use of aseptic non-touch technique for any required dressing changes/wound procedures.
- Don't touch dressings for at least 48 hours after surgery, unless leakage or other complications occur.
- Routine post-operative wound dressings should be basic dressing types (e.g. absorbent or low adherence dressings).
- When approaching a patient for the examination of a wound, the health worker may also perform other tasks (e.g. accessing a venous catheter, drawing blood samples, checking urinary catheter). Hand hygiene may be needed before and after these specific tasks, to once again fulfil Moments 2 and 3, for example (refer to WHO dedicated 5 Moments posters for line or catheter management).
- When indicated, pre-operative surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) should be administered as a single parenteral dose 2 hours or less before the surgical incision, while considering the half-life of the antibiotic. Do not prolong administration of SAP after completion of the operation.
- Antibiotic therapy for any proven surgical site infection should ideally be administered based on wound sample culture and sensitivity results.
- Common signs and symptoms of wound infection are: pain or tenderness; localized swelling; erythema; heat; or purulent drainage from the superficial incision.
- This guidance does not include information on complicated post-operative wound care, when specific treatments or therapies may be required.

**World Health Organization**

**SAVE LIVES  
CLEAN YOUR HANDS**

Source: <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/tools/surgical/reminders-advocacy/en/>



# Tools to address the culture



## Core CUSP toolkit

Created for clinicians by clinicians, the CUSP toolkit is modular and modifiable to meet individual unit needs. Each module includes teaching tools and resources to support change at the unit level, presented through facilitator notes that take you step-by-step through the module, presentation slides, tools, videos.

## CUSP for Safe Surgery Perioperative Staff Safety Assessment

**Purpose of this form:** The purpose of this form is to tap into your experiences at the frontlines of patient care to find out what risks jeopardize patient safety in your clinical area.

**Who should complete this form:** All staff members.

**How to complete this form:** Provide as much detail as possible when answering the 4 questions. Drop off your completed safety assessment form in the location designated by the SUSP team.

**When to complete this form:** Any staff member can complete this form at any time.

### CUSP for Safe Surgery (SUSP)

#### Safety Issues Worksheet for Senior Executive Partnership

**Date of Safety Rounds:**

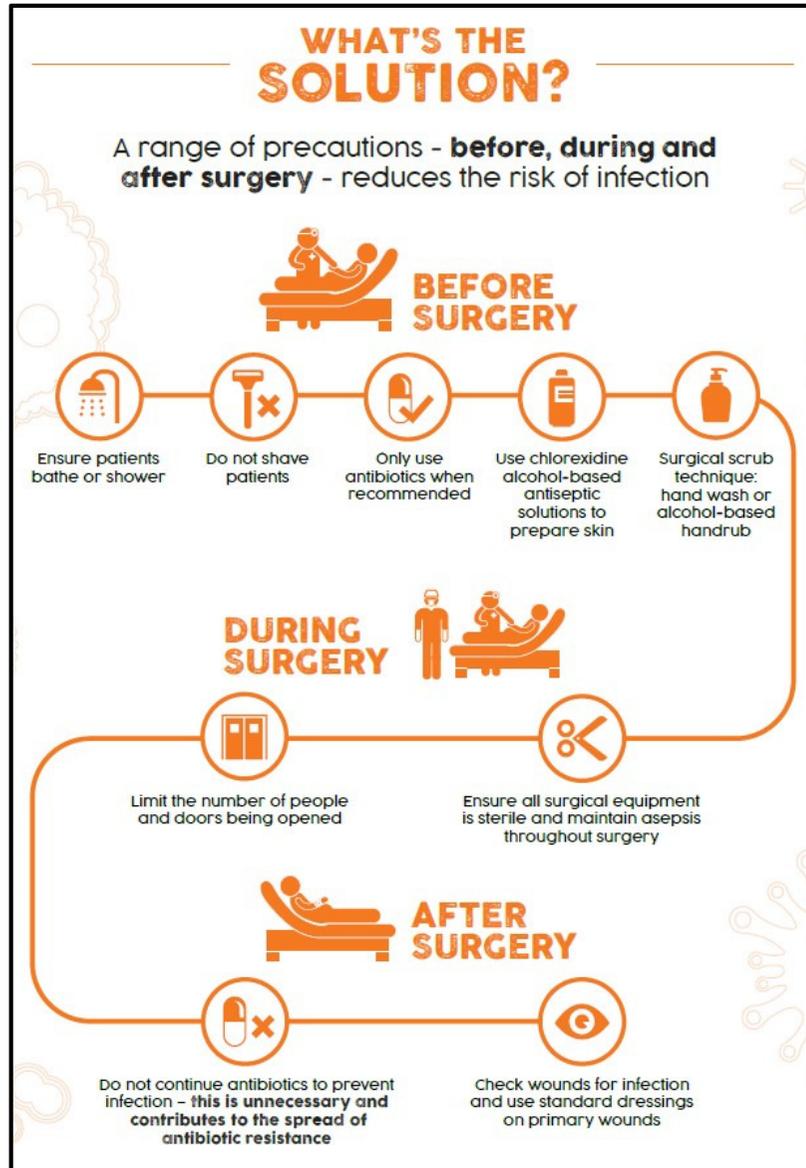
**Unit:**

**Attendees:**

- |    |   |
|----|---|
| 1. | 5.  |
| 2. | 6.  |
| 3. | 7.  |
| 4. | (Please use back of form for additional attendees.) |

*Sources:* Core CUSP Toolkit [website]. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2018 (<https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/education/curriculum-tools/cusptoolkit/modules/index.html>); Supplemental Tools [website]. Rockville, MD: Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality; 2018 (<https://www.ahrq.gov/professionals/quality-patient-safety/hais/tools/surgery/guide-appcusp.html>).

# SSI prevention throughout the patient journey – IPC in action



Source: <http://www.who.int/gpsc/ssi-infographic.pdf>



# Acknowledgements



- Benedetta Allegranzi (Department of Service Delivery and Safety, WHO) coordinated the development of this module and contributed to its writing.
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# THANK YOU

## WHO Infection Prevention and Control Global Unit



Learn more at: <http://www.who.int/infection-prevention/en/>



World Health  
Organization