



Implementation of a Standardized Infection Prevention Procedural Observation Checklist

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Background

- Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) impact patient outcomes directly attributable to increased mortality, increased length of stay, preventable antibiotic use, and additional surgeries¹
- Our IPC team closely monitors surgical outcomes focused on preventing SSIs
- An important recommendation from the National Patient Safety Strategy is direct observation of surgical procedures²

Purpose

- Direct observation of surgical procedures offers an opportunity for process mapping and/or identifying gaps and breaks in surgical procedure
- NYU IPC's goal is to standardize infection control processes for observing surgical procedures
- Develop a system-wide observation tool

Intervention

- IPC created a system-wide process for direct operating room (OR) observations in the Winter/Spring of 2022/2023
 - “Standardized Infection Prevention Procedural Observation Checklist” was created following AORN guidelines³
- Observations are grouped by surgical phase for ease of application
 - Pre-operative, intraoperative and post-operative
- Incorporates best evidence to guide Infection Preventionists (IPs) from varied practice backgrounds to focus observations using a uniformed process

Intervention

- In March 2023, Standardized Infection Prevention Procedural Observation Checklist launched across the system
- The initial data collected identified trends and allowed for a retrospective review and evaluation of current OR practices
- After utilization for one year, the tool will be reviewed to align with updated AORN Standards and IPC Policies at that time

Sharing the experience from Brooklyn

- Brooklyn IPs conducted OR observations using the checklist monthly from March 2023 to the present
- 11 observations collected and analyzed
 - e.g., total hip and total knee replacements, colon surgery, cardiac catheterization and an appendectomy
- All findings fell into two main themes:
 - Staff Behavior
 - Environment

Next Steps in Brooklyn

- Observation findings were shared with hospital and peri-op leadership, operating surgeons and Chiefs of Surgery
- Themes have informed our action plan for the newly developed hospitals SSI Prevention Working Group

References

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2. National Healthcare Safety Network, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Surgical site infection (SSI) event. [Surgical Site Infection \(cdc.gov\)](https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pssrs/ssi/). Published January 2024.
3. Kyle, Erin, ed. Guidelines for Perioperative Practice. 2023 edition. Denver, CO: AORN, Association for PeriOperative Registered Nurses, 2023.

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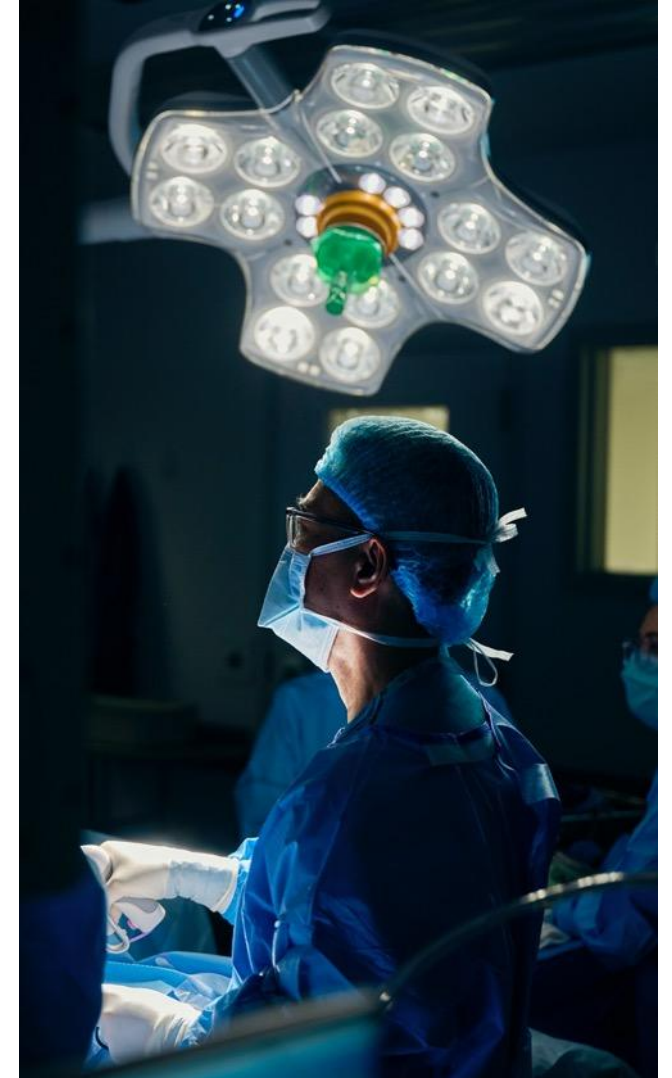
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Thank you

