



**TITLE: Post-Surgical Surveillance for Surgical Site Infections: Guidelines**

**DATE:** 31 March 2014

## **RESEARCH QUESTION**

What are the evidence-based guidelines regarding post-surgical surveillance for surgical site infections?

## **KEY MESSAGE**

One health technology assessment was identified regarding post-surgical surveillance for surgical site infections.

## **METHODS**

A limited literature search was conducted on key resources including PubMed, The Cochrane Library (2014, Issue 2), University of York Centre for Reviews and Dissemination (CRD) databases, Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused Internet search. Methodological filters were applied to limit retrieval to health technology assessments, systematic reviews, meta-analyses and guidelines. The search was also limited to English language documents published between Jan 1, 2009 and Mar 19, 2014. Internet links were provided, where available.

The summary of findings was prepared from the abstracts of the relevant information. Please note that data contained in abstracts may not always be an accurate reflection of the data contained within the full article.

## **RESULTS**

Rapid Response reports are organized so that the higher quality evidence is presented first. Therefore, health technology assessment reports, systematic reviews, and meta-analyses are presented first. These are followed by evidence-based guidelines.

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One health technology assessment was identified regarding post-surgical surveillance for surgical site infections. No relevant systematic reviews, meta-analyses, or evidence-based guidelines were identified.

Additional references of potential interest are provided in the appendix.

### **OVERALL SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

One health technology assessment<sup>1</sup> investigated the risk factors for surgical site infection (SSI) and the importance of post-discharge SSI surveillance. The definitions of SSIs varied between hospitals and surveillance systems. There was good association with the definitions' ability to predict outcomes associated with SSIs. The authors recommend further research is needed to develop a common definition of SSI.

## REFERENCES SUMMARIZED

### Health Technology Assessments

1. Gibbons C, Bruce J, Carpenter J, Wilson AP, Wilson J, Pearson A, et al. Identification of risk factors by systematic review and development of risk-adjusted models for surgical site infection. Health Technol Assess [Internet]. 2011 Sep [cited 2014 Mar 20];15(30):1-iv. Available from:  
[http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0006/64734/FullReport-hta15300.pdf](http://www.journalslibrary.nihr.ac.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0006/64734/FullReport-hta15300.pdf)  
[PubMed: PM21884656](#)

### Systematic Reviews and Meta-analyses

No literature identified.

### Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

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**APPENDIX – FURTHER INFORMATION:**

**Clinical Guidelines – Methods not Specified**

2. Quality statement 7: surveillance [Internet]. In: Surgical site infection. London: National Institute for Clinical Excellence; 2013 Oct [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: <http://publications.nice.org.uk/surgical-site-infection-gs49/quality-statement-7-surveillance>.
3. Provincial Infectious Diseases Advisory Committee (PIDAC). Best practices for surveillance of health care-associated infections in patient and resident populations [Internet]. Toronto: Ontario Agency for Health Protection and Promotion; 2011 Oct. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: [http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Surveillance\\_3-3\\_ENGLISH\\_2011-10-28%20FINAL.pdf](http://www.publichealthontario.ca/en/eRepository/Surveillance_3-3_ENGLISH_2011-10-28%20FINAL.pdf)  
*Note: post-surgical surveillance mentioned throughout*
4. Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare. Australian guidelines for the prevention and control of infection in healthcare. Commonwealth of Australia [Internet]. Canberra (ACT): National Health and Medical Research Council, Australian Government; 2010. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: [http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files\\_nhmrc/publications/attachments/cd33\\_complete.pdf](http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/files_nhmrc/publications/attachments/cd33_complete.pdf)  
*See: C4 Healthcare-associated infection surveillance, page 221*

**Surveillance Programs**

5. Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Service (SSISS) [Internet]. London: Public Health England; 2014. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: <http://www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/SurgicalSiteInfection/SSISurveillanceProgramme/>
6. Surveillance of surgical site infections in European hospitals – HAISSI protocol [Internet]. Stockholm: European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control; 2012. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: [http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/publications/120215\\_ted\\_ssi\\_protocol.pdf](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/publications/120215_ted_ssi_protocol.pdf)  
-select cancel if asked for password. Document will open after that
7. Prevent surgical site infections. Getting started kit [Internet]. Edmonton (AB): Safer Healthcare Now!; 2011; Mar. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: <http://www.saferhealthcarenow.ca/EN/Interventions/SSI/Documents/SSI%20Getting%20Started%20Kit.pdf>  
*See : pages 21 and 30*

**Review Articles**

8. Astagneau P, L'Heriteau F. Surveillance of surgical-site infections: impact on quality of care and reporting dilemmas. *Curr Opin Infect Dis*. 2010 Aug;23(4):306-10.  
[PubMed: PM20485163](#)
9. Quinn A, Hill AD, Humphreys H. Evolving issues in the prevention of surgical site infections. *Surgeon*. 2009 Jun;7(3):170-2.  
[PubMed: PM19580181](#)

### Additional References

10. Surveillance for Surgical Site Infection (SSI) events [Internet]. Atlanta (GA): Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2014. [cited 2014 Mar 28]. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/acute-care-hospital/ssi/>
11. Wilson AP, Kiernan M. Recommendations for surveillance priorities for healthcare-associated infections and criteria for their conduct. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* 2012 Jul;67 Suppl 1:i23-i28.  
[PubMed: PM22855875](#)