Commited to Better: Reducing Infections After Surgery

ON-SQIN Hospitals Surpass Campaign Target

Last year, Ontario Surgical Quality Improvement Network hospitals committed to better — better care, better quality, better outcomes.

As part of the first-ever collaborative campaign, 30 ON-SQIN hospitals (27 adult hospitals and 3 pediatric hospitals) pledged to reduce one or all of the following post-surgical infection rates: urinary tract infection (UTI), surgical site infection (SSI), and pneumonia. Their goal? A combined 20% reduction.

Using their 2018/19 Surgical Quality Improvement Plans, participating hospitals benchmarked their infection rates against their international counterparts and made changes to practices before, during, and after surgery.

The results are in...

You’ve achieved a 27% combined reduction in rates of UTI, SSI, and pneumonia*

That’s 1,135 adult† and 285 pediatric§ patients in Ontario who avoided at least one infection (estimated)

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*Data reported in participating adult and pediatric hospitals’ 2018/19 Surgical Quality Improvement Plans (28 of 30 hospital sites submitted results).
†Data based on numbers found in “Your Health System Insight. Discharge Abstract Database 2009/10-2016-17. Canadian Institute for Health Information.
§Data based on estimated annual surgical volumes at participating pediatric sites.
A quick glance at how hospitals improved patient outcomes in these key areas.

**Urinary Tract Infection**

63% reduction in 10 hospitals
from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

That’s an estimated 1,283 adult† and 34 pediatric§ patients who avoided a UTI

Top 3 change ideas:
- Early removal of urinary catheters
- Aseptic techniques for catheter insertion
- Education and training on appropriate catheter use

**Surgical Site Infection**

21% reduction in 24 hospitals
from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

That’s an estimated 686 adult† and 226 pediatric§ patients who avoided an SSI

Top 3 change ideas:
- Antibiotic prophylaxis
- Normothermia
- Bathing before surgery

**Pneumonia**

18% reduction in 2 hospitals
from April 1, 2018 to March 31, 2019

That’s an estimated 12 adult† patients who avoided pneumonia

Top 3 change ideas:
- Standardized order sets
- Patient
- Oral hygiene

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We encourage all hospitals to celebrate their success – and keep the momentum going.

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*Data from the January 2019 ACS NSQIP Ontario Semi-Annual Report. Reporting period includes only the first 3 months of the campaign.