



Case Study

Acute Care Facility: Unacceptable Level of Surgical Site Infections



Identified as a *Never Event*, Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) constitute a major patient safety indicator leading to undesirable outcomes, patient dissatisfaction, potential for creating negative publicity for surgeon/facility and denial of reimbursement for services.

CLIENT: Acute Care Facility, Perioperative Services

ENGAGEMENT: Onsite Consultation

PURPOSE OF THE CONSULTATION: AORN Works, Inc. was engaged to assess the perioperative services with an in-depth analysis of infection control practices and compliance with national standards.

PROCESS: Conducted a patient safety assessment including infection control data analysis, perioperative operations, clinical practice, instrument processing and environmental cleaning practices

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Institute perioperative leadership model that provides consistent clinical management and supports compliance with national standards.
2. Eliminate the additional duties assigned to the Infection Preventionist enabling her to optimize her role.
3. Dedicate an assigned team of well-educated housekeeping staff.
4. Correct environmental structural barriers that adversely affect infection control processes.
5. Formulate education program that reflects current standards of practice.

RESULTS:

1. The facility has reportedly made some modifications to the action plan and has implemented several of the specific recommendations.
2. The leadership has expressed positive comments regarding the onsite consultation indicating that “it was the best money spent.”