



Every Cut, Every Count, Every Patient: Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) are highly preventable. Our collective vigilance in strict adherence to sterile protocols directly impacts patient safety, recovery timelines, and surgical outcomes.

1. PRE-OPERATIVE PREPARATION

- ✓ **Patient Cleansing:** Verify patients showered with CHG or prescribed soap the night before and morning of surgery.
- ✓ **Hair Removal:** Never routine. If medically necessary, use electric clippers immediately before surgery outside the OR. Never use razors.
- ✓ **Surgical Scrubbing:** Perform a full 3–5 minute scrub for the first case, or use approved alcohol-based surgical hand rubs properly ensuring total dry time.
- ✓ **Glycemic Control:** Target perioperative blood glucose levels < 180 mg/dL for all patients, regardless of diabetic status.

2. INTRA-OPERATIVE MANAGEMENT

- ✓ **Skin Preparation:** Apply alcohol-based skin prep (e.g., CHG-alcohol) unless contraindicated. Allow to **completely air dry** for full efficacy and fire safety.
- ✓ **Antibiotic Timing:** Administer prophylactic antibiotics within 60 minutes prior to incision (120 min for vancomycin/fluoroquinolones). Re-dose based on blood loss or prolonged case duration.
- ✓ **Normothermia:** Maintain core body temperature > 36°C (96.8°F) using active warming devices to preserve tissue oxygenation and immune response.
- ✓ **FiO2 Optimization:** Provide optimized oxygenation perioperatively and immediately post-extubation to support wound healing.

3. STERILE FIELD & ATTIRE DISCIPLINE

- ✓ **Proper Attire:** Ensure all hair, including sideburns and nape of neck, is fully contained within the surgical cap. Masks must cover nose and mouth fully; do not dangle masks.
- ✓ **Minimize Traffic:** Keep OR doors closed. Minimize entries and exits to maintain positive pressure and reduce airborne bacterial counts.
- ✓ **Instrument Integrity:** Visually inspect every tray for dynamic indicator changes, moisture, or breaches before introducing items to the sterile field.
- ✓ **The Wound Bundle:** Utilize a dedicated closing tray and change gown/gloves prior to closing fascial and skin layers in contaminated or lengthy cases.

OUR COMMITMENT TO SAFETY

Ultimately, the power to prevent infections is in our hands. We depend on every single member of our staff to go back to the basics—maintaining impeccable discipline, calling out sterility breaches instantly, and executing every standard without compromise. Together, we hold the line to ensure no harm is done to our patients.