

APIC NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

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“SHAKE, RATTLE AND ROLL... SURGICAL SITE INFECTION CASE SCENARIOS”

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A path to success for new and long term IPs performing surveillance:

- New to SSI surveillance- Don't feel like a failure- to FAIL is only the:
 - First
 - Attempt
 - In
 - Learning
- Experienced in SSI surveillance- Frustrated by nuances and differences in interpretation- NHSN working to resolve/align, ask a question

Tips

- Make a timeline of elements
- Shut out the “noise” (not a part of SSI criteria)
- Ask NHSN
- Keep your documentation for rationale of determination made
- Use resources- PSM Ch 9 Appendix A (eligible event types by procedure), Table 4 (hierarchy of procedures); SSI FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Date of event-** must fall within surveillance period (count the days) but other elements to meet final designation may come shortly after
- **SI SSI determination by physician designation:**
 - **Can** use coded diagnosis
 - **Can** use physician documentation of “wound” or “skin infection”
- **Pus/Purulent drainage:**
 - Color **plus** consistency
 - **Only** two colors “count”- **yellow** or **green**

Imaging Criteria

- **Imaging:**

- **Equivocal imaging**- fluid collection, abscess or seroma/hematoma, etc. Clinical correlation- **Can** use antimicrobial indication on MAR **BUT** must be specific to site criteria, eg, yes for intraabdominal infection, but not empirically for infection
- **Definitive imaging**- abscess or infection present



Patient Complaints Criteria

- **Patient complaints:**
 - C/o “pus” or “purulence”, or other acceptable description= meets SI SSI criteria if documented in record as occurring in surveillance timeframe
 - C/o nausea “due to overeating”= does not exclude use of nausea symptom due to other cause; determination if due to another cause should be made by provider

Invasive Manipulation (IM) Criteria

- NHSN established to avoid penalizing facilities for manipulation later resulting in infection
- Has not met intent as most IM is done because infection is suspected (one of three criteria under which use of IM cannot be used to exclude SSI)





Ask NHSN

- ServiceNow to submit questions to the NHSN Help Desk.
- Access new portal at
*****servicedesk.cdc.gov/nhsncsp
- If you do not have a SAMS login, or are unable to access ServiceNow, you can still email the NHSN Help Desk at nhsn@cdc.gov.



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