

GLOBAL GUIDELINES  
FOR THE PREVENTION OF  
SURGICAL SITE INFECTION



© World Health Organization 2016

178 pages

HP  
衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

Recommendations on  
Prevention of Surgical Site Infection

2nd Edition

Scientific Committee on Infection Control, and  
Infection Control Branch, Centre for Health Protection,  
Department of Health

September 2017

衛生防護中心乃衛生署  
轄下執行疾病預防  
及控制的專業架構  
*The Centre for Health  
Protection is a  
professional arm of the  
Department of Health for  
disease prevention and  
control*

HP 衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

衛生署  
Department of Health

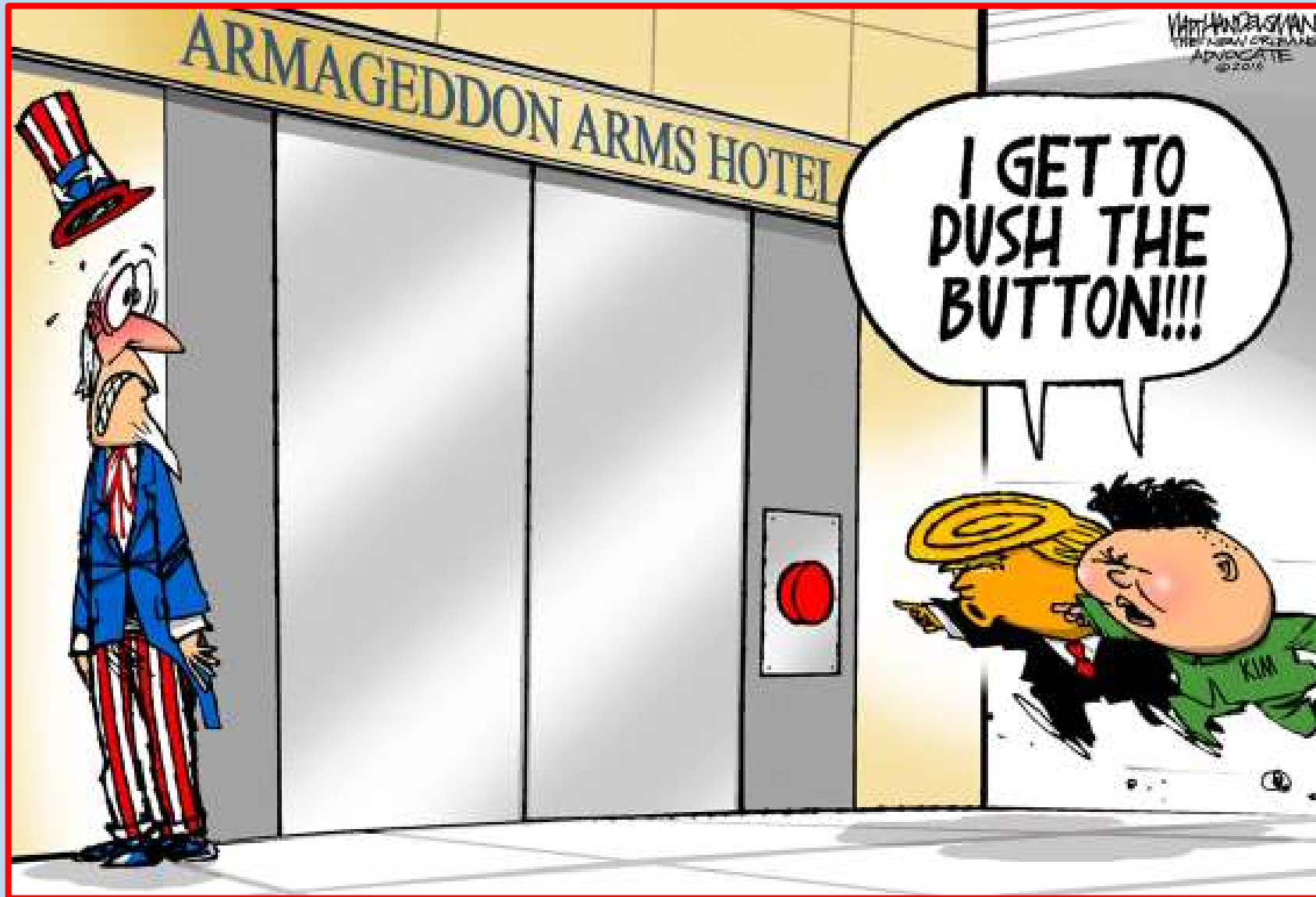
1

First guideline 2009

# Highlights on the revised guideline on prevention of SSI

WH Seto

**Guidelines are useless – if people just do whatever they want .....**



**Donald Trump Cartoon**



**Kim Jung Un says he already arrived in Singapore, love Durians, Chicken Rice and is waiting for Trump**



**World Health  
Organization**



185 pp

**GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR THE  
PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE  
INFECTION:  
An introduction**

**Launched 3 November 2016**

<http://www.who.int/gpsc/ssi-prevention-guidelines/en/>

# Why surgical site infection prevention?

It is estimated that hundreds of millions of patients are affected by health care-associated infections (HAI) worldwide, each year. At present, **no country is free from the burden of disease caused by HAI.**

*Allegretti B et al.* Articles  
*Lancet 2011;377:228-41*

**Burden of endemic health-care-associated infection in developing countries: systematic review and meta-analysis**

**World Health Organization Patient Safety**  
A World Health Organization Initiative

**Report on the Burden of Endemic Health Care-Associated Infection Worldwide**  
Clean Care is Safer Care

**Summary**  
Background Health-care-associated infection is the most frequent result of unsafe practice in developing countries. We aimed to assess the epidemiology of end infections in developing countries.

**Methods** We searched electronic databases and reference lists of relevant papers for articles containing full or partial data from developing countries related to incidence—including overall health-care-associated infection and major infection sites cases—were selected. We classified studies as low-quality or high-quality according to were pooled for analysis.

**Findings** Of 271 selected articles, 228 were included in the final analysis. Limited data regions and many countries were not represented. 118 (51%) studies were low quality. In general, high-quality studies were greater than those from low-quality studies. Overall infection (pooled prevalence in high-quality studies, 15.5 per 100 patient-days [95% CI 12.4–18.6]) reported from Europe and the USA. Pooled overall health-care-associated infection rates were 47.9 per 1000 patient-days (95% CI 36.2–59.5), at least those reported from the USA. Surgical-site infection was the leading infection in hospitals (in 1.4 per 100 surgical procedures), strikingly higher than proportions recorded in developed health-care systems. The most common nosocomial isolates, apart from methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* isolates (in eight studies), very few articles reported antimicrobial resistance.

**Interpretation** The burden of health-care-associated infection in developing countries is high and needs to improve surveillance and infection-control practices.

**Funding** World Health Organization.

**Introduction**  
Health-care-associated infections are deemed the most frequent adverse events threatening patient safety worldwide.<sup>1</sup> However, reliable estimates of the global burden are hampered by a paucity of data adequately describing endemic infections at national and regional levels, particularly in resource-limited settings.<sup>2</sup> In countries where less than 5% of the gross national product is spent on health care, and workforce density is low (less than five per 1000 population), other emerging health problems and disease take priority.<sup>3</sup> The epidemiological gap leading to the absence of reliable estimates of the global burden is mainly because surveillance of health-care-associated infections depends on time and resources and needs expertise in study design, data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Very few countries of low and middle income have national surveillance systems for health-care-associated infections. Data from the International Nosocomial Infection Control Consortium and findings of two systematic reviews on hospital-acquired bacterial infection<sup>4</sup> and ventilator-associated pneumonia<sup>5</sup> suggested not only that rates of health-care-associated infection are significantly higher in developing countries but also that the effect on systems is severe and globally significant.<sup>6</sup>

The aim of this systematic review was to assess the burden of endemic infections in developing countries to identify areas for improvement. We also aim to investigate surveillance of health-care-associated infections in resource-limited settings for improvement.

**Methods**  
**Search strategy and selection**  
We conducted a literature search according to a protocol design. We aimed to identify health-care-associated infections with a particular focus on endemic infections—primary-care settings, low-income settings, hospitals, and resource-limited settings. We searched for reports published between December 2006, with no language or date restrictions.

**Surgical site infections (SSI) are potential complications associated with any type of procedure and are among the most preventable HAI.**

**SSI is the most frequent type of HAI in low- and middle-income countries (affecting on average 11% of patients who undergo a surgical procedure) and the second or third most frequent type of HAI in the United States and Europe.**

# Main reasons for developing surgical site infection prevention guidelines

- ❑ High global epidemiological burden
- ❑ **Highly preventable infection**
- ❑ **No recent evidence-based guidelines**
- ❑ Need for a global perspective
- ❑ Need for taking into account balance between benefits and harms, evidence quality level, cost and resource use implications, and patient values and preferences



# GUIDELINE FOR PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION, 1999

Alicia J. Mangram, MD; Teresa C. Horan, MPH, CIC; Michele L. Pearson, MD; Leah Christine Silver, BS; William R. Jarvis, MD;  
The Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee



Hospital Infections Program  
National Center for Infectious Diseases  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Public Health Service  
US Department of Health and Human Services

Hospital Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee Membership List, January 1999

## CHAIRMAN

Elaine L. Larson, RN, PhD, FAAN, CIC  
Columbia University School of Nursing  
New York, New York

## EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Michele L. Pearson, MD  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
Atlanta, Georgia

## SURGICAL SITE INFECTION GUIDELINE SPONSOR

James T. Lee, MD, PhD, FACS  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Clinical Review & Education

JAMA Surgery | Special Communication

## Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection, 2017

Sandra I. Berríos-Torres, MD; Craig A. Umscheid, MD, MSCE; Dale W. Bratzler, DO, MPH; Brian Leas, MA, MS;  
Erin C. Stone, MA; Rachel R. Kelz, MD, MSCE; Caroline E. Reinke, MD, MSHP; Sherry Morgan, RN, MLS, PhD;  
Joseph S. Solomkin, MD; John E. Mazuski, MD, PhD; E. Patchen Dellinger, MD; Kamal M. F. Itani, MD;  
Elie F. Berbari, MD; John Segreti, MD; Javad Parvizi, MD; Joan Blanchard, MSS, BSN, RN, CNOR, CIC;  
George Allen, PhD, CIC, CNOR; Jan A. J. W. Kluytmans, MD; Rodney Donlan, PhD; William P. Schechter, MD;  
for the Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee

WHO

*Handbook  
for Guideline  
Development*

*2nd edition*



World Health  
Organization

Level of Evidence

The WHO GRADE APPROACH

GRADE: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation.

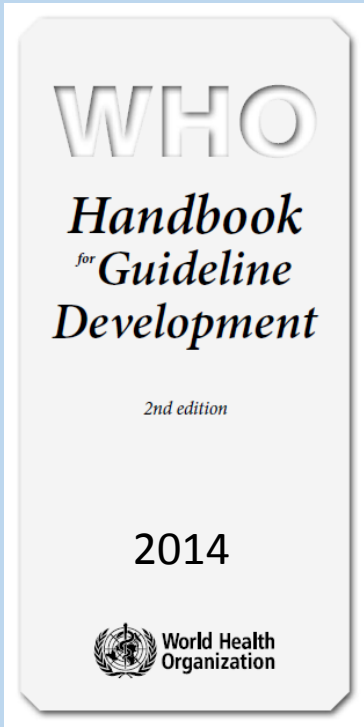


# Guideline development

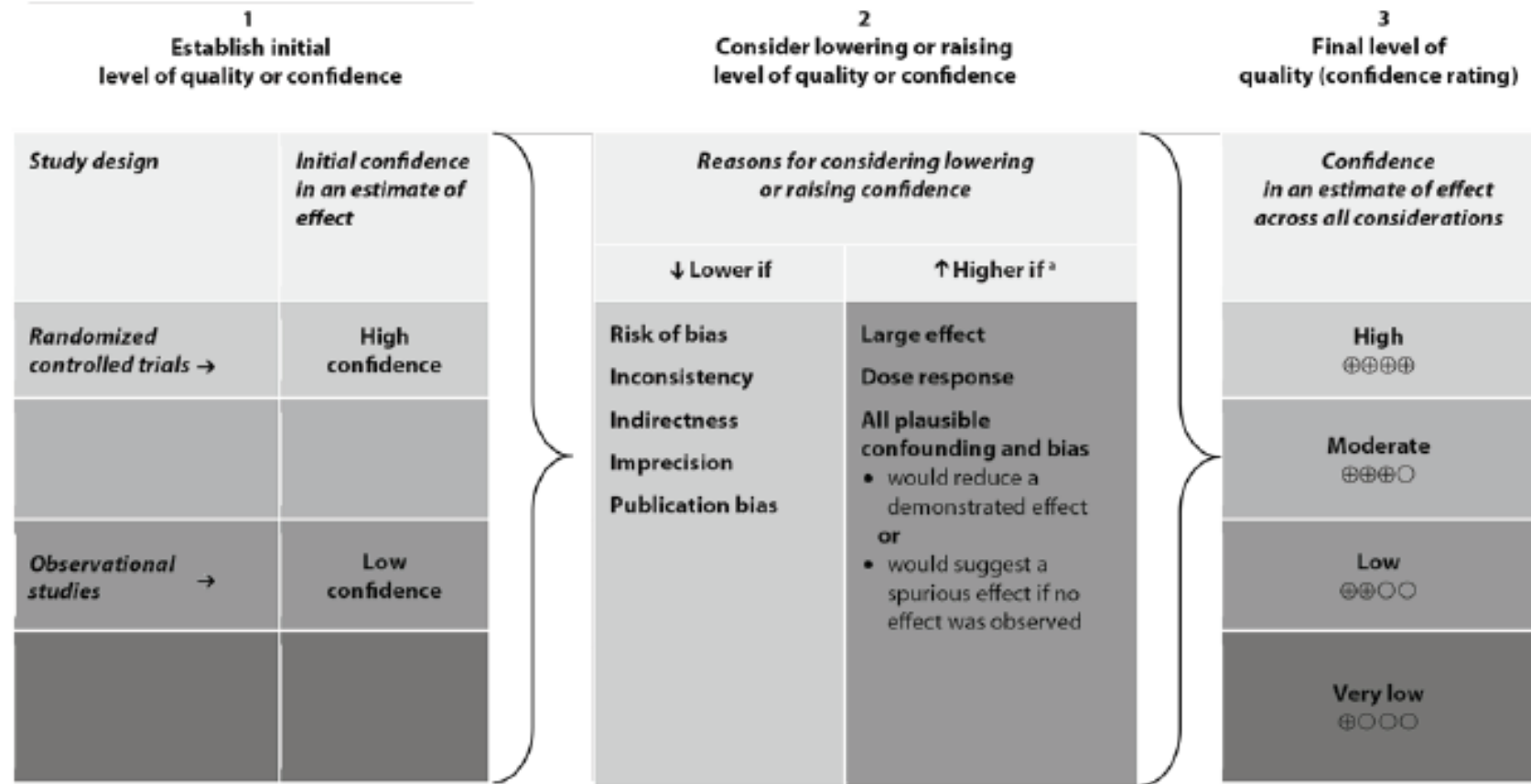
- WHO guidelines are developed following a standard methodology described in the *WHO Handbook for Guideline Development* and in accordance with the WHO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)
  
- The process included:
  - Identification of primary critical topics/outcomes and the development of related PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes) **questions**
  - Retrieval of evidence through systematic reviews of each topic
  - ➔ **Systematic reviews** were conducted between December 2013 and October 2015 in order to provide supporting evidence for the development of each recommendation
  - Assessment and **synthesis of the evidence**
  - **Formulation of recommendations** with leading experts from around the world – 29 recommendations on
  - ➔ 26 topics have been outlined, nine of which are “strong recommendations”
  - **Writing** of guidelines content and planning for **dissemination and implementation**



# WHO uses the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) approach to assess the quality of a body of evidence.



**Fig. 9.1. The GRADE approach to rating quality of evidence for each outcome**



GRADE: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation.

<sup>a</sup> Criteria for upgrading the quality are only applicable to observational studies without any reason for downgrading.

.....  
**Table 9.2. Quality of evidence in GRADE**

Quality level	Definition
<b>High</b>	We are <u>very confident</u> that the true effect lies <u>close to that of the estimate</u> of the effect.
<b>Moderate</b>	We are moderately confident in the effect estimate: the true effect is <u>likely to be close to the estimate</u> of the effect, but there is a possibility that it is substantially different.
<b>Low</b>	Our confidence in the effect estimate is limited: the true effect <u>may be substantially different</u> from the estimate of the effect.
<b>Very low</b>	We have very little confidence in the effect estimate: the true effect is <u>likely to be substantially different</u> from the estimate of effect.

---

GRADE: Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation.

# Guideline development

- ❑ WHO guidelines are developed following a standard methodology described in the *WHO Handbook for Guideline Development* and in accordance with the WHO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)
- ❑ The process included:
  - Identification of primary critical topics/outcomes and the development of related PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes) questions
  - Retrieval of evidence through systematic reviews of each topic
    - Systematic reviews were conducted between December 2013 and October 2015 in order to provide supporting evidence for the development of each recommendation
  - Assessment and synthesis of the evidence
  - **Formulation of recommendations with leading experts from around the world** – 29 recommendations on 26 topics have been outlined, nine of which are “strong recommendations”
  - Writing of guidelines content and planning for dissemination and implementation



A **strong recommendation** is one for which the panel is confident that the desirable effects of adherence to a recommendation outweigh the undesirable effects. This can be both in favor of an intervention or against an intervention.

A **weak recommendation** is one for which the panel concludes that the desirable effects of adherence to a recommendation probably outweigh the undesirable effects, but the panel is not confident about these trade-offs. Reasons for not being confident can include:

Decide by:  
GDG: Guidelines Development Group

**Table 0.1. Factors that determine the direction and strength of a recommendation**

Factor	How the factor influences the direction and strength of a recommendation
Quality of the evidence	The quality of the evidence across outcomes critical to decision-making will inform the strength of the recommendation. The higher the quality of the evidence, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation.
Values and preferences	This describes the relative importance assigned to health outcomes by those affected by them; how such importance varies within and across populations; and whether this importance or variability is surrounded by uncertainty. The less uncertainty or variability there is about the values and preferences of people experiencing the critical or important outcomes, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation.
Balance of benefits and harms	This requires an evaluation of the absolute effects of both benefits and harms (or downsides) of the intervention and their importance. The greater the net benefit or net harm associated with an intervention or exposure, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation in favour or against the intervention.
Resource implications	This pertains to how resource-intensive an intervention is, whether it is cost-effective and whether it offers any incremental benefit. The more advantageous or clearly disadvantageous the resource implications are, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation either for or against the intervention.
Priority of the problem	The problem's priority is determined by its importance and frequency (i.e. burden of disease, disease prevalence or baseline risk). The greater the importance of the problem, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation.
Equity and human rights	The greater the likelihood that the intervention will reduce inequities, improve equity or contribute to the realization of one or several human rights as defined under the international legal framework, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation.
Acceptability	The greater the acceptability of an option to all or most stakeholders, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation.
Feasibility	The greater the feasibility of an option from the standpoint of all or most stakeholders, the greater the likelihood of a strong recommendation. Feasibility overlaps with values and preferences, resource considerations, existing infrastructures, equity, cultural norms, legal frameworks, and many other considerations.

**Table 10.2. Interpretation of strong and conditional recommendations for an Intervention**

Audience	Strong recommendation	Conditional recommendation
Patients	<p><u>Most individuals in this situation would want the recommended course of action; only a small proportion would not.</u></p> <p>Formal decision aides are not likely to be needed to help individuals make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.</p>	<p>Most individuals in this situation would want the suggested course of action, <u>but many would not.</u></p>
Clinicians	<p><u>Most individuals should receive the intervention.</u></p> <p>Adherence to the recommendation could be used as a quality criterion or performance indicator.</p>	<p><u>Different choices</u> will be appropriate for individual patients, who will require assistance in arriving at a management decision consistent with his or her values and preferences. Decision aides may be useful in helping individuals make decisions consistent with their values and preferences.</p>
Policy-makers	<p>The recommendation can be <u>adopted as policy</u> in most situations.</p>	<p>Policy-making will <u>require substantial debate and involvement of various stakeholders.</u></p>

# Guideline development

- ❑ WHO guidelines are developed following a standard methodology described in the *WHO Handbook for Guideline Development* and in accordance with the WHO Guidelines Review Committee (GRC)
- ❑ The process included:
  - Identification of primary critical topics/outcomes and the development of related PICO (Population, Intervention, Comparator, Outcomes) questions
  - Retrieval of evidence through systematic reviews of each topic
    - Systematic reviews were conducted between December 2013 and October 2015 in order to provide supporting evidence for the development of each recommendation
  - Assessment and synthesis of the evidence
  - Formulation of recommendations with leading experts from around the world – 29 **recommendations on 26 topics have been outlined, nine of which are “strong recommendations”**
  - Writing of guidelines content and planning for dissemination and implementation



# WHO nine strong recommendations – preoperative measures (1)

- 4.2 Patients with **known nasal carriage of *S. aureus*** should receive **perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment** with or without a combination of CHG body wash. (M) [for cardiothoracic & orthopaedic surgery\*]
- 4.5 **MBP# alone** (without the administration of oral antibiotics<sup>@</sup>) should **NOT be used** in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery. (M) <sup>@Impact – Neomycin + Erythromycin</sup>
- 4.6 In patients undergoing any surgical procedure, **hair should either NOT be removed** or, if absolutely necessary, should **only be removed with a clipper**. Shaving is strongly discouraged at all times, whether preoperatively or in the operating room. (M)
- 4.4 **Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) should be administered** before the surgical incision, when indicated. (L)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

4.6

2.5

2.1

4.8



# WHO nine strong recommendations – preoperative measures (2)

- 4.4 SAP should be administered within 120 min\* before incision**, while considering the half-life of the antibiotic. (M)
- 4.9 Surgical hand preparation should be performed** either by scrubbing with a suitable **antimicrobial soap** and water **or** using a suitable **alcohol-based handrub** before donning sterile gloves. (M)
- 4.7 Alcohol-based antiseptic solutions based on CHG for surgical site** skin preparation **should be used** in patients undergoing surgical procedures. (M - cf aqueos to L - cf PVP)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

4.8

3.3

2.4

\* CHP – within 30 min.



World Health  
Organization

# WHO nine strong recommendations – intra & postoperative measures

- 4.12 Adult patients undergoing **general anaesthesia with endotracheal intubation** for surgical procedures should receive **80% fraction of inspired oxygen intraoperatively** and, if feasible, in the **immediate postoperative period for 2–6 h.** (M)
- 4.24 Surgical **antibiotic prophylaxis** administration should **not be prolonged after completion of the operation** (M)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

1.6

4.9



World Health  
Organization



衛生防護中心  
Centre for Health Protection

## Recommendations on Prevention of Surgical Site Infection

2nd Edition



Scientific Committee on Infection Control, and  
Infection Control Branch, Centre for Health Protection,  
Department of Health

September 2017

衛生防護中心乃衛生署  
轄下執行疾病預防  
及控制的專業架構

*The Centre for Health  
Protection is a  
professional arm of the  
Department of Health for  
disease prevention and  
control*



1



# Key changes in the 2017 second edition

First guideline 2009

# 1. Key-changes recommendation

## Blood glucose control

### 2009

- 1.2 Screen patients for presence of hyperglycaemia and implement protocol to adequately control the serum blood glucose level (less than 11.1mmol/L = 200mg/dL) perioperatively and during the first 48 hours postoperatively (10-12). There is evidence for such measures to be applied in patients undergoing cardiothoracic operations, most notably coronary artery bypass graft (CABG).

### 2017

- 1.2 Screen patients for presence of hyperglycaemia and implement protocol to adequately control the serum blood glucose level (~~less than 11.1mmol/L = 200mg/dL~~) perioperatively and during the first 48 hours postoperatively **for both diabetic and non-diabetic patients undergoing cardiac and other major operations.**

# Conditional guideline recommendations

## Immunosuppressive medication

Immunosuppressive medication should **not** be discontinued prior to surgery for the purpose of preventing SSI.

## Nutritional formulas

Consider the administration of oral or enteral multiple nutrient-enhanced nutritional formulas for the purpose of preventing SSI in underweight patients who undergo major surgical operations.

## Bathing before surgery

It is good clinical practice for patients to bathe or shower before surgery. Either a plain soap or an antiseptic soap could be used for this purpose.

## Intranasal mupirocin

Consider treating patients with known nasal carriage of *S. aureus* undergoing other types of surgery with perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash.

## Antibiotics & MBP

Preoperative oral antibiotics combined with MBP should be used to reduce the risk of SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery.

## Antimicrobial sealants

Antimicrobial sealants should **not** be used after surgical site skin preparation for the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Warming devices

Warming devices should be used in the operating room and during the surgical procedure for patient body warming with the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Blood glucose control

Protocols for intensive perioperative blood glucose control should be used for both diabetic and non-diabetic adult patients undergoing surgical procedures.

## Fluid therapy

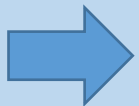
Goal-directed fluid therapy should be used intraoperatively for the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Drapes and gowns

Either sterile disposable non-woven or sterile reusable woven drapes and surgical gowns can be used during surgical operations for the purpose of preventing SSI.



Strong  
for CDC  
2017



## 2. Key-changes recommendation

### Maintaining normothermia

#### 2009

##### Point 1.5

- Maintain normothermia (core temperature of 36-38°C) perioperatively in colorectal surgery patients. The supportive measures include a combination of warmed blankets, warming devices, warmed intravenous fluids, increase ambient temperature in the operating room, and a consistent method and equipment for monitoring patients' temperature. They may prove valuable for other surgical patients as well.

#### 2017

##### Point 1.5

- Maintain normothermia (above 36°C) perioperatively ~~in colorectal surgery patients~~. The supportive measures include a combination of warmed blankets, warming devices, warmed intravenous fluids, increase ambient temperature in the operating room, and a consistent method and equipment for monitoring patients' temperature. ~~They may prove valuable for other surgical patients as well.~~

# Conditional guideline recommendations

## Immunosuppressive medication

Immunosuppressive medication should **not** be discontinued prior to surgery for the purpose of preventing SSI.

## Nutritional formulas

Consider the administration of oral or enteral multiple nutrient-enhanced nutritional formulas for the purpose of preventing SSI in underweight patients who undergo major surgical operations.

## Bathing before surgery

It is good clinical practice for patients to bathe or shower before surgery. Either a plain soap or an antiseptic soap could be used for this purpose.

## Intranasal mupirocin

Consider treating patients with known nasal carriage of *S. aureus* undergoing other types of surgery with perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash.

## Antibiotics & MBP

Preoperative oral antibiotics combined with MBP should be used to reduce the risk of SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery.

## Antimicrobial sealants

Antimicrobial sealants should **not** be used after surgical site skin preparation for the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Warming devices

Warming devices should be used in the operating room and during the surgical procedure for patient body warming with the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Blood glucose control

Protocols for intensive perioperative blood glucose control should be used for both diabetic and non-diabetic adult patients undergoing surgical procedures.

## Fluid therapy

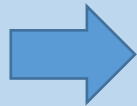
Goal-directed fluid therapy should be used intraoperatively for the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Drapes and gowns

Either sterile disposable non-woven or sterile reusable woven drapes and surgical gowns can be used during surgical operations for the purpose of preventing SSI.



Strong  
for CDC  
2017



# 3. Key-changes recommendation

## Choice of skin disinfectant

### 2009

#### Point 2.3

- Chlorhexidine is a more effective skin disinfectant (19,20) and repeated applications with this agent may be indicated for cardiac thoracic and orthopaedic surgical patients with known MRSA in hospitals and units where there is a high incidence of postoperative wound infections by MRSA or MRSE (27,62-63).

### 2017

#### Point 2.3

- Add 2.4  
“use **alcohol-based** antiseptic solutions containing CHG for surgical site skin preparation in patients undergoing surgical procedures



# WHO nine strong recommendations – preoperative measures (2)

**4.4 SAP should be administered within 120 min before incision,** while considering the half-life of the antibiotic. (M)

**4.9 Surgical hand preparation should be performed** either by scrubbing with a suitable **antimicrobial soap** and water **or** using a suitable **alcohol-based handrub** before donning sterile gloves. (M)

**4.7 Alcohol-based antiseptic solutions based on CHG for surgical site** skin preparation **should be used** in patients undergoing surgical procedures. (M - cf aqueos to L - cf PVP)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

4.8

3.3

2.4



World Health  
Organization

# 4. Key-changes recommendation

## Surgical hand preparation

### 2009

#### Point 3.6

- Alcohol-based surgical handrub product – follow manufacturer's instructions

### 2017

#### Point 3.5

- Alcohol-based surgical handrub product – follow manufacturer's instructions
- 3.5.5 – Proper sequence with an alcohol-based technique is included in Appendix 2

Table I.13.2

Protocol for surgical scrub with a medicated soap

**Procedural steps**

- Start timing. Scrub each side of each finger, between the fingers, and the back and front of the hand for 2 minutes.
- Proceed to scrub the arms, keeping the hand higher than the arm at all times. This helps to avoid recontamination of the hands by water from the elbows and prevents bacteria-laden soap and water from contaminating the hands.
- Wash each side of the arm from wrist to the elbow for 1 minute.
- Repeat the process on the other hand and arm, keeping hands above elbows at all times. If the hand touches anything at any time, the scrub must be lengthened by 1 minute for the area that has been contaminated.
- Rinse hands and arms by passing them through the water in one direction only, from fingertips to elbow. Do not move the arm back and forth through the water.
- Proceed to the operating theatre holding hands above elbows.
- At all times during the scrub procedure, care should be taken not to splash water onto surgical attire.
- Once in the operating theatre, hands and arms should be dried using a sterile towel and aseptic technique before donning gown and gloves.

## Appendix 2:

Figure I.13.1  
Surgical hand preparation technique with an alcohol-based handrub formulation

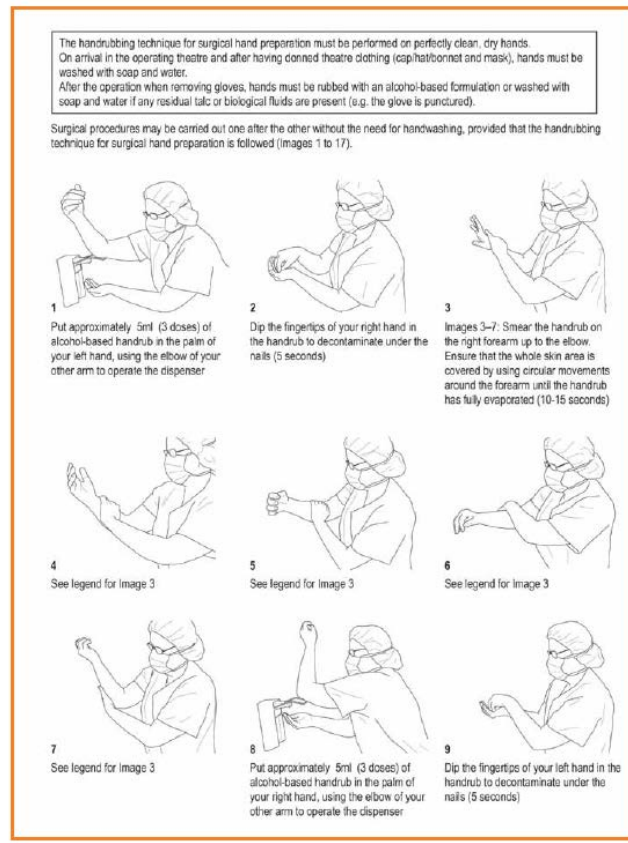
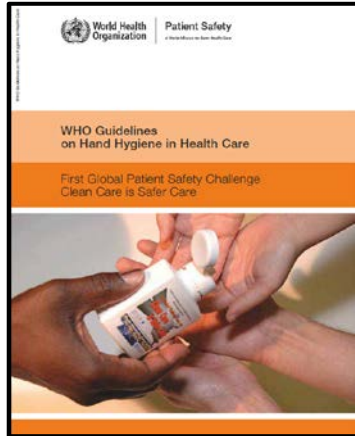


Figure I.13.1  
Surgical hand preparation technique with an alcohol-based handrub formulation (Cont.)





# Surgical Handrubbing Technique

- Handwash with soap and water on arrival to OR, after having donned theatre clothing (cap/hat/bonnet and mask).
- Use an alcohol-based handrub (ABHR) product for surgical hand preparation, by carefully following the technique illustrated in Images 1 to 17, before every surgical procedure.
- If any residual talc or biological fluids are present when gloves are removed following the operation, handwash with soap and water.



1 Put approximately 5ml (3 doses) of ABHR in the palm of your left hand, using the elbow of your other arm to operate the dispenser.



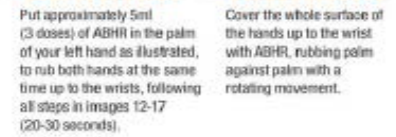
2 Dip the fingertips of your right hand in the handrub to decontaminate under the nails (5 seconds).



Images 3-7: Smear the handrub on the right forearm up to the elbow. Ensure that the whole skin area is covered by using circular movements around the forearm until the handrub has fully evaporated (10-15 seconds).



Images 8-10: Now repeat steps 1-7 for the left hand and forearm.



11 Put approximately 5ml (3 doses) of ABHR in the palm of your left hand as illustrated, to rub both hands at the same time up to the wrists, following all steps in images 12-17 (20-30 seconds).



12 Cover the whole surface of the hands up to the wrist with ABHR, rubbing palm against palm with a rotating movement.



13 Rub the back of the left hand, including the wrist, moving the right palm back and forth, and vice-versa.

14 Rub palm against palm back and forth with fingers interlinked.

15 Rub the back of the fingers by holding them in the palm of the other hand with a sideways back and forth movement.

16 Rub the thumb of the left hand by rotating it in the clasped palm of the right hand and vice-versa.

17 When the hands are dry, sterile surgical clothing and gloves can be donned.

Repeat this sequence (average 60 sec) the number of times that adds up to the total duration recommended by the ABHR manufacturer's instructions. This could be two or even three times.

# WHO nine strong recommendations – preoperative measures (2)

- 4.4 **SAP should be administered within 120 min before incision**, while considering the half-life of the antibiotic. (M)
- 4.9 **Surgical hand preparation should be performed** either by scrubbing with a suitable **antimicrobial soap** and water **or** using a suitable **alcohol-based handrub** before donning sterile gloves. (M)
- 4.7 **Alcohol-based antiseptic solutions based on CHG for surgical site** skin preparation **should be used** in patients undergoing surgical procedures. (M -cf aqueos to L -cf PVP)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

4.8

3.3

2.4



World Health  
Organization

# 5. Key-changes recommendation

## Prevent Staph aureus infection in carriers

### 2009

#### Point 4.6

- Consider using perioperative intranasal Mupirocin and take shower wash or bath **or bath as listed in item 2.2** in known carriers of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) undergoing cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgeries where morbidity and mortality due to surgical infections are significant.

### 2017

#### Point 4.6

- **Use preoperative** intranasal Mupirocin **2%** and take shower wash or bath **with Chlorhexidine gluconate 4% skin cleanser and shampoo** in known carriers of Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) undergoing cardiothoracic and orthopaedic surgeries where morbidity and mortality due to surgical infections are significant.

# WHO nine strong recommendations – preoperative measures (1)

4.2 Patients with **known nasal carriage of *S. aureus*** should receive **perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment** with or without a combination of CHG body wash. (M) [for cardiothoracic & orthopaedic surgery\*]

4.5 **MBP# alone** (without the administration of oral antibiotics) should **NOT be used** in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery. (M)

4.6 In patients undergoing any surgical procedure, **hair should either NOT be removed** or, if absolutely necessary, should **only be removed with a clipper**. Shaving is strongly discouraged at all times, whether preoperatively or in the operating room. (M)

4.4 **Surgical antibiotic prophylaxis (SAP) should be administered** before the surgical incision, when indicated. (L)

CHP  
Guideline  
Number

4.6

2.5

2.1

4.8

# 6. Key-changes recommendation Ventilation system in OR

2009

Point 5.4

- Filter all recirculated and fresh air through HEPA filters at 99.97% efficiency. There are documents suggesting that HEPA filters are not generally required in the setting of general operating theatres; however, further studies into this subject are required

2017

Point 5.4

- Filter for all incoming air through MERV 7 & MERV 14 filters (or equivalent) at a minimum



# 6. Ventilation system in OR

GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION  
2016

## No research question set and recommendations in this topic

In many countries, the use of high efficiency particulate air filters (at least 99.97% efficient in removing particles  $\geq 0.3 \mu\text{m}$  in diameter) in the operating room ventilation system is mandatory by law. **Of note, the utmost importance must be paid to the maintenance of any kind of ventilation system and its components.**

The operating room ventilation system should be regularly checked and filters changed (the need for this is assessed by monitoring the pressure differential across the filters) according to local standard operating procedures, which should be based on the manufacturer's instructions and international guidelines.

**Table 4.23.1. Recommendations on ventilation systems in the operating room according to available guidelines**

<b>Guidelines (year issued)</b>	<b>Recommendations on ventilation systems in the operating room</b>
<b>SHEA/IDSA practice recommendation (2014) (5)</b>	Follow the American Institute of Architects' recommendations for proper air handling in the operating room.
<b>CDC/HICPAC Guidelines for environmental infection control in health-care facilities (2003) (3)</b>	No recommendation for orthopaedic implant operations in rooms supplied with laminar airflow.

SHEA: Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America; IDSA: Infectious Diseases Society of America; CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; HICPAC: Healthcare Infection Control Practices Advisory Committee.

TABLE 6-1 Minimum Filter Efficiencies

Space Designation (According to Function)	Filter Bank Number 1 (MERV) <sup>a</sup>	Filter Bank Number 2 (MERV) <sup>a</sup>
Classes B and C surgery; inpatient and ambulatory diagnostic and therapeutic radiology; inpatient delivery and recovery spaces	7	14
Inpatient care, treatment, and diagnosis, and those spaces providing direct service or clean supplies and clean processing (except as noted below); All (rooms)	7	14
Protective environment rooms (PE)	7	17 (HEPA) <sup>c</sup>
Laboratories; Class A surgery and associated semi-restricted spaces	13 <sup>b</sup>	N/R*
Administrative; bulk storage; soiled holding spaces; food preparation spaces; and laundries	7	N/R
All other outpatient spaces	7	N/R
Skilled nursing facilities	7	N/R

# 7. Key-changes recommendation

## 2009

### Point 5.7

- Maintain relative humidity at 30-60% and temperature at 20-23°C

## 2016

### Point 5.7

- Maintain relative humidity at 20-60% and temperature at 20-24°C

Guidelines for Design and Construction of Hospitals and Outpatients Facilities. The Facility Guidelines Institute 2014 edition; American Society for Healthcare Engineering of AHA [Previous edition 2006]

# 7. Temperature and humidity

**GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION  
2016**

No research question set and recommendations in this topic

## 8. Key-changes recommendation

### Microbiological air sampling

2009

- 5.9 Allow adequate time for commissioning including microbiological assessments by the hospital infection control team before an operating theatre is first used and after any substantial modifications that may affect airflow patterns in pre-existing theatres (40). As microbiological sampling is time consuming, the use of particle counters may be of value (41); however, high particle counts may not necessarily be associated with increase in air microbiological counts in conventionally ventilated operating theatres. The clinical significance of high particle counts is to be further studied (42).
- 5.10 Do not perform microbiological air sampling routinely, provided that engineering parameters such as air distribution, air change rates, pressure differentials and airflow, etc. are satisfactory and regularly monitored. Such sampling should be done as part of an epidemiological investigation, validation of changes in products e.g. HEPA filters, maintenance of operating theatres or as advised by the hospital infection control team (4, 40, 41).

## 8. Key-changes recommendation

### Microbiological air sampling

2017

5.11.3 For conventional operation rooms. aerobic cultures on nonselective media should not exceed 10 bacterial and or fungal CFUs per cubic metre (m<sup>3</sup>) of air sampled.

Initiate an appropriate course of action e.g. re cleaning of the environment and re testing if results are outside the limits. If repeat testing produces results above acceptable levels the HVAC systems should be reviewed by the appropriate personnel

# 8. Microbiological air sampling

GLOBAL GUIDELINES FOR THE PREVENTION OF SURGICAL SITE INFECTION  
2016

No research question set and  
recommendations in this topic



# Other recommendations

Guidelines (year issued)	Recommendations
DH. Government of Western Australia. Microbiological Air Sampling of Operating Rooms in WA Healthcare Facilities (2015)	The acceptable level of colony forming units (CFUs) for the purpose of this operational directive is the same for all types of ORs Aerobic cultures on non-selective media should not exceed <u>10 bacterial and or fungal CFUs per cubic metre (m<sup>3</sup>) of air sampled.</u>

# 9. Key-changes recommendation

## Flash sterilization

- 7.5 Immediate-use steam sterilization (IUSS, formerly known as flash sterilization) of surgical instruments should only be used for emergency with no alternatives. IUSS of implant devices, prosthesis and power instruments or simply to save time should be avoided.
- 7.6 Standard procedures and staff proficiency of carry out IUSS should be monitored.
- 7.7 IUSS record (i.e. load identification, patient/ hospital's identifier, mechanical, chemical +/- biological result) should be maintained and updated for epidemiological tracking and for an assessment of the reliability of the sterilization process.

**Underline sections in 2009 guideline**

## Comments from WHO guideline, pp53

### *Immediate use sterilization system or “flash” sterilization*

Should never replace the lack of material or instruments.

If an immediate use sterilization system must be used, it should be used only after all of the following conditions have been met:

- Work practices should ensure proper cleaning, inspection and arrangement of instruments before sterilization.
- The physical layout of the area ensures direct delivery of sterilized items to the point of use.
- Procedures are developed, followed and audited to ensure aseptic handling and staff safety during transfer of the sterilized items from the sterilizer to the point of use.

**On page 5 of  
Second Edition**

*The 1<sup>st</sup> edition was dedicated to the late*

***Dr. Rosie Fan***

*who had contributed enormously to the  
development of the recommendations.*

Beautiful Hong Kong  
Thank you!



# WHO Infection Prevention and Control

Protecting *patient and health worker lives* across the world through *excellence in infection prevention and control*



**Thank you!**



World Health  
Organization

# Conditional guideline recommendations



Strong  
for CDC  
2017

## Immunosuppressive medication

Immunosuppressive medication should **not** be discontinued prior to surgery for the purpose of preventing SSI.

## Nutritional formulas

Consider the administration of oral or enteral multiple nutrient-enhanced nutritional formulas for the purpose of preventing SSI in underweight patients who undergo major surgical operations.

2.2



## Bathing before surgery

It is good clinical practice for patients to bathe or shower before surgery. Either a plain soap or an antiseptic soap could be used for this purpose.

## Intranasal mupirocin

Consider treating patients with known nasal carriage of *S. aureus* undergoing other types of surgery with perioperative intranasal applications of mupirocin 2% ointment with or without a combination of CHG body wash.

## Antibiotics & MBP

Preoperative oral antibiotics combined with MBP should be used to reduce the risk of SSI in adult patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery.

## Antimicrobial sealants

Antimicrobial sealants should **not** be used after surgical site skin preparation for the purpose of reducing SSI.

1.5



## Warming devices

Warming devices should be used in the operating room and during the surgical procedure for patient body warming with the purpose of reducing SSI.

1.2



## Blood glucose control

Protocols for intensive perioperative blood glucose control should be used for both diabetic and non-diabetic adult patients undergoing surgical procedures.

## Fluid therapy

Goal-directed fluid therapy should be used intraoperatively for the purpose of reducing SSI.

## Drapes and gowns

Either sterile disposable non-woven or sterile reusable woven drapes and surgical gowns can be used during surgical operations for the purpose of preventing SSI.



### Adhesive drapes

Plastic adhesive incise drapes with or without antimicrobial properties should **not** be used for the purpose of preventing SSI.

### Wound protectors

Consider the use of wound protector devices in clean-contaminated, contaminated and dirty abdominal surgical procedures for the purpose of reducing the rate of SSI.

### Saline wound irrigation

There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against saline irrigation of incisional wounds for the purpose of preventing SSI.

### Povidone iodine irrigation

Consider the use of irrigation of the incisional wound with an aqueous povidone iodine solution before closure for the purpose of preventing SSI, particularly in clean and clean-contaminated wounds.

### Antibiotic irrigation

Antibiotic incisional wound irrigation before closure should **not** be used for the purpose of preventing SSI.

### Neg pressure wound therapy

Prophylactic negative pressure wound therapy may be used on primarily closed surgical incisions in high-risk wounds and, taking resources into account, for the purpose of preventing SSI.

### Coated sutures

Triclosan-coated sutures may be used for the purpose of reducing the risk of SSI, independent of the type of surgery.

### Laminar flow ventilation

Laminar airflow ventilation systems should **not** be used to reduce the risk of SSI for patients undergoing total arthroplasty surgery.



### Peri-op antibiotics

Perioperative surgical antibiotic prophylaxis should **not** be continued due to the presence of a wound drain for the purpose of preventing SSI.

### Wound drains

The wound drain should be removed when clinically indicated. No evidence was found to allow making a recommendation on the optimal timing of wound drain removal for the purpose of preventing SSI.

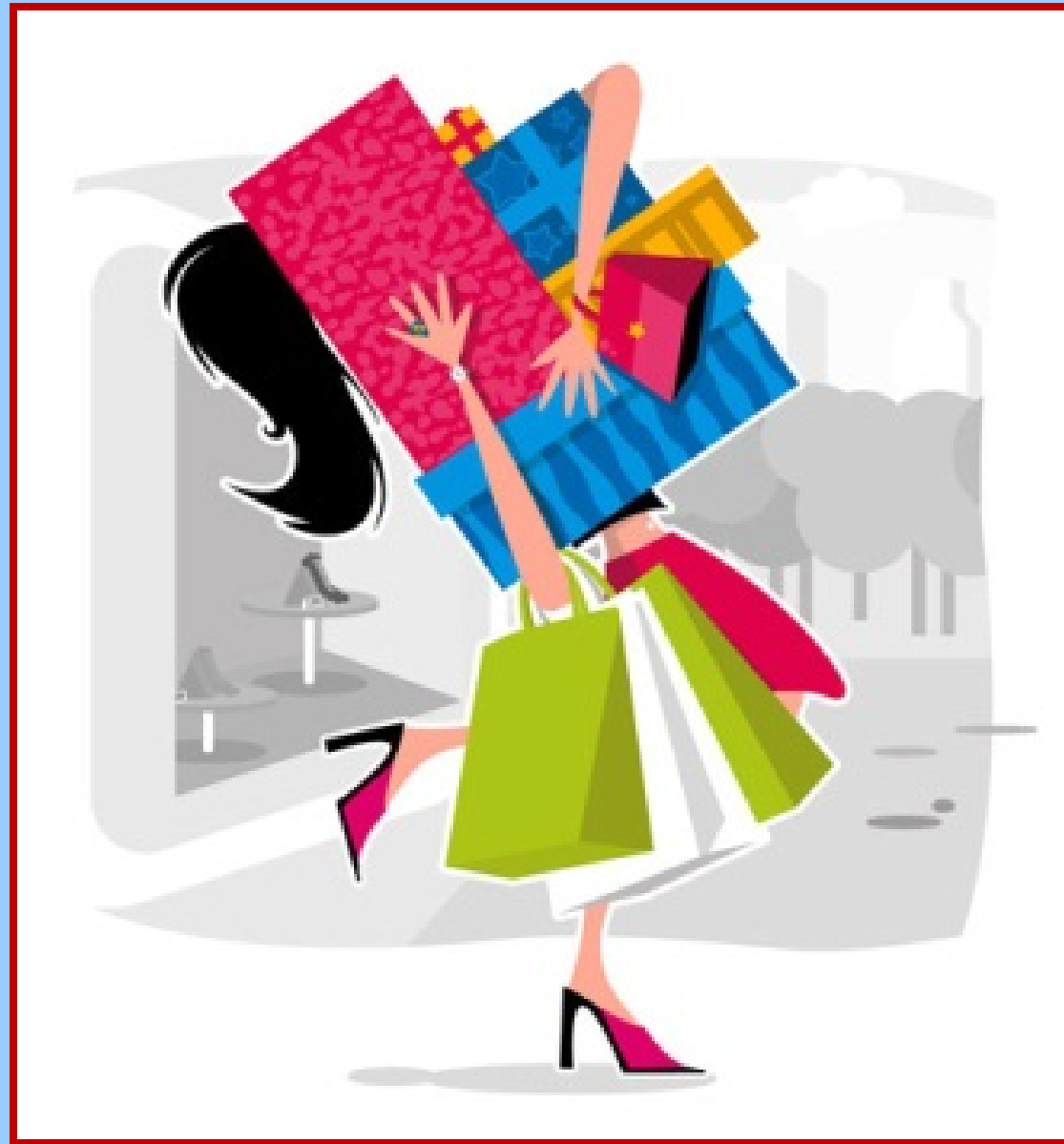
### Advanced dressings

Advanced dressing of any type should **not** be used over a standard dressing on primarily closed surgical wounds for the purpose of preventing SSI.





*Hong Kong is so crowded  
.....but why is everyone so happy?*



*Greatest Shopping in the World.....*