

Surgical Infection Prevention

The information shows how often Touchette Regional Hospital provided recommended treatment for patients with selected surgeries.

In an operating room, there are open wounds, surgical instruments, intravenous fluids and blood transfusions. This makes it a key area to focus on preventing infections. Surgical Infection Prevention provides treatments that are shown to help prevent a post operative infection at the incision site.

Data is for April 2011 – March 2010

Measures: Higher % is Better	Our Performance	National Average	State Average
<p>Outpatients having surgery who got an antibiotic at the right time – within one hour before surgery.</p> <p>why is it important?</p> <p>Getting an antibiotic within 1 hour before surgery reduces the risk of wound infections. Hospitals should check to make sure surgery patients get antibiotics at the right time.</p>	31%	95%	95%
<p>Outpatients having surgery who got the right kind of antibiotic.</p> <p>why is it important?</p> <p>Certain antibiotics are recommended to help prevent wound infections for particular types of surgery. This measure looks at how often hospital surgery patients get the appropriate antibiotic in order to prevent a surgical wound infection.</p>	82%	95%	95%
<p>Patients using beta blockers before coming to the hospital, were kept on the beta blockers during the period just before and after their surgery.</p> <p>why is it important?</p> <p>It is often standard procedure to stop patients' usual medications for awhile before and after their surgery. But if patients who have been taking beta blockers suddenly stop taking them, they can have heart problems such as a fast heart beat. For these patients, staying on beta blockers before and after surgery makes it less likely that they will have heart problems.</p>	57%	95%	95%
<p>Antibiotic at the right time (within one hour before surgery) to help prevent infection</p> <p>why is it important?</p> <p>Getting an antibiotic within 1 hour before surgery reduces the risk of wound infections. Hospitals should check to make sure surgery patients get antibiotics at the right time.</p>	85%	97%	97%
<p>Right kind of antibiotic to help prevent</p>	88%	98%	98%

<p>infection</p> <p><u>why is it important?</u></p> <p>Certain antibiotics are recommended to help prevent wound infections for particular types of surgery. This measure looks at how often hospital surgery patients get the appropriate antibiotic in order to prevent a surgical wound infection.</p>			
<p>Preventative antibiotics were stopped at the right time (within 24 hours after surgery)</p> <p><u>why is it important?</u></p> <p>It is important for hospitals to stop giving preventive antibiotics within 24 hours after surgery to avoid side effects and other problems associated with antibiotic use. For certain surgeries, however, antibiotics may be needed for a longer time.</p>	95%	96%	96%
<p>Blood sugar (blood glucose) kept under good control in the days right after heart surgery</p> <p><u>why is it important?</u></p> <p>Even if heart surgery patients do not have diabetes, keeping their blood sugar under good control after surgery lowers the risk of infection and other problems. “Under good control” means their blood sugar should be 200 mg/dl or less when checked first thing in the morning.</p>	NA*	94%	93%
<p>Hair removal from the surgical area before surgery using a safer method (electric clippers or hair removal cream, not a razor)</p> <p><u>why is it important?</u></p> <p>Preparing a patient for surgery may include removing body hair from skin in the area where the surgery will be done. Medical research has shown that shaving with a razor can increase the risk of infection. It is safer to use electronic clippers or hair removal cream.</p>	100%	100%	100%
<p>Surgery patient whose urinary catheters were removed on the first or second day after surgery.</p> <p><u>why is it important?</u></p> <p>Sometimes surgical patients need to have a urinary catheter, or thin tube, inserted into their bladder to help drain the urine. Catheters are usually attached to a bag that collects the urine. Surgery patients can develop infections when urinary catheters are left in place too long after surgery. Infections are dangerous for patients, cause longer hospital stays, and increase costs.</p>	92%	92%	92%
<p>Body temperature normal or near normal by end of surgery or actively warmed.</p>	97%	99%	99%

<p><u>why is it important?</u> Medical research has shown that patients whose body temperatures drop during surgery have a greater risk of infection and their wounds may not heal as quickly. Hospital staff should make sure that patients are actively warmed during and immediately after surgery to prevent drops in body temperatures</p>			
<p>Doctor ordered treatments to prevent blood clots for certain types of surgeries <u>why is it important?</u> Certain types of surgery can increase the risk of blood clots forming in the veins. This is because patients don't move much during and, usually, after some surgeries.</p> <p>Venous thrombosis is a condition in which a blood clot (thrombus) forms in a vein. This clot can limit blood flow, causing swelling, redness and pain. Most commonly, clots occur in the legs, thighs, or pelvis.</p> <p>If a part or all of the clot breaks off from where it was formed, it can travel through the veins. The part that breaks off is called an embolus. If the embolus lodges in the lung, it is called a pulmonary embolism, a serious condition that can cause death.</p> <p>A number of factors can increase a patient's risk of developing blood clots, but doctors can order preventive treatments called prophylaxis to reduce the risk. Prophylaxis may include blood thinning medications, elastic support stockings, or mechanical air stockings that promote circulation in the legs.</p>	79%	95%	95%
<p>Treatment at the right time (within 24 hours before or after their surgery) to help prevent blood clots after certain types of surgery <u>why is it important?</u> Treatment(s) to prevent blood clots must be given at the right time to prevent blood clots forming after selected surgeries.</p> <p>Venous thrombosis is a condition in which a blood clot (thrombus) forms in a vein. This clot can limit blood flow, causing swelling, redness and pain. Most commonly, clots occur in the legs, thighs, or pelvis.</p> <p>If a part or all of the clot breaks off from where it was formed, it can travel through the veins.</p>	79%	94%	93%

<p>The part that breaks off is called an embolus. If the embolus lodges in the lung, it is called a pulmonary embolism, a serious condition that can cause death.</p> <p>A number of factors can increase a patient's risk of developing blood clots, but doctors can order preventive treatments called prophylaxis to reduce the risk. Prophylaxis may include blood thinning medications, elastic support stockings, or mechanical air stockings that promote circulation in the legs.</p>			
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* Touchette Regional Hospital does not perform heart surgery