

A Multidisciplinary Committee Approach To Reducing Surgical Site Infection And Enhancing Maternal Early Warning Recognition

Allegheny Health Network – West Penn Hospital

Pittsburgh, PA

Our Hospital



AHN West Penn Hospital
 Receives 4th Consecutive
 Recognition by U.S. News
 and World Report as one
 of the Nation's Top 50
 Hospitals for Obstetrics
 and Gynecology



- 356-bed academic medical center in Pittsburgh, PA
- American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) Magnet® designated since 2006
- U.S. News and World Report Top 50 Hospitals for Obstetrics & Gynecology
- Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)
- Approximately 3700 deliveries annually

Our Team

- Nursing
- Physicians
- Advanced Practice Providers
- Social Work
- Quality

Primary Contact information

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Problem Statement

Despite implementation of evidence-based SSI prevention strategies, surgical site infections remain a source of maternal morbidity. Additionally, delayed recognition of urgent maternal warning signs can lead to preventable complications, readmission, and adverse outcomes. There is an opportunity to strengthen both infection prevention practices and early escalation of maternal warning signs through standardized processes and education.

Focus Area

- Standardization of OB SSI prevention bundles
- Postoperative wound care and dressing management
- Antibiotic stewardship and appropriate use
- Staff education and compliance monitoring
- Patient education prior to discharge
- Urgent Maternal Warning Signs into discharge teaching and bedside care

Status

SSI bundle implementation: in progress/sustained
 Maternal warning signs education:

- Staff education completed
- Patient materials implemented
- Ongoing compliance case reviews

Measures

- Compliance with SSI bundle elements
- Antibiotic timing and duration compliance



Key Interventions

SSI Prevention Bundle:

- Universal Primapore dressing use
- Glove change prior to fascial closure
- Dedicated closure tray at end of case
- CHG (Hibiclens) vaginal prep for all c-sections
- Antibiotic management:
 - Continue intrapartum antibiotics for infection until afebrile X 24 hours
 - 24-hour prophylactic antibiotics for stat C-sections

Urgent Maternal Warning Signs integration:

- Standardized education on warning signs for all postpartum patients
- Visual aids are displayed throughout the hospital, including the postpartum unit, OB triage area, antepartum unit, all visitor elevators, and providers offices to enhance patient and staff education.

Results

- Early data suggest downwards trend in SSI rate
- Timely identification and intervention for recognizing postpartum warning signs
- Distribution of blood pressure machines with appropriate size cuffs

On this topic, our team would like to learn most from our peers...

- Strategies to sustain high compliance with SSI bundles over time
- Innovative approaches to real-time auditing and feedback
- Best practices for engaging physicians and frontline staff
- Use of data transparency and dashboards to drive improvement
- Successful methods to reduce SSI in high-risk populations