

# Using an Evidence-based Practice Tool to Improve Surgical Wound Classification

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## Background

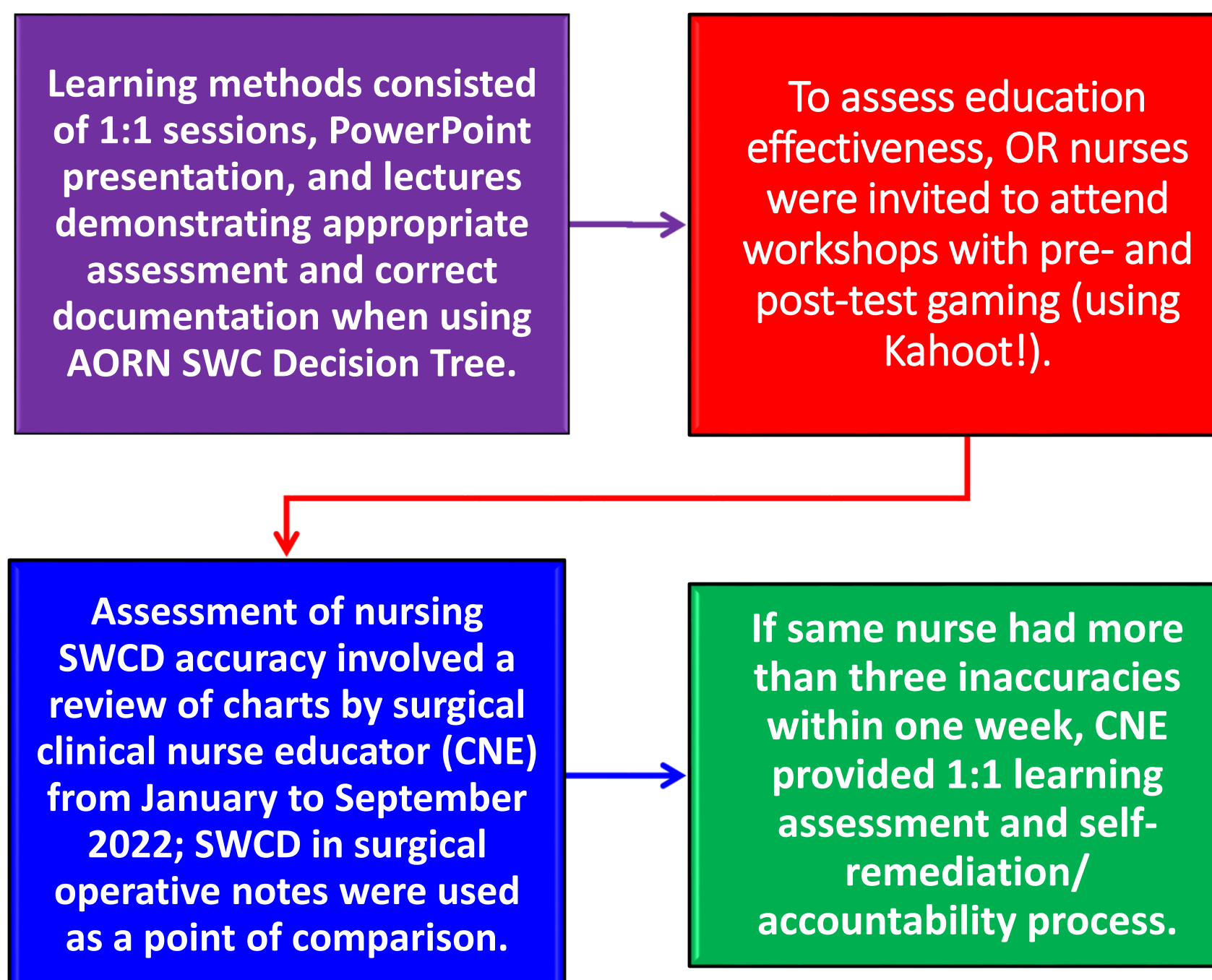
- Surgical wound classification documentation (SWCD) is a crucial factor in early identification of surgical site infection (SSI) and reimbursement exactitude.
- However, internal evidence showed a significant amount of SWCD inaccuracies.
- 20.23% ( $n=249$ ) inaccuracies out of 1231 surgical cases audited from January to March 2022.
- Ideally, the goal is to achieve 100% accuracy (or zero inaccuracies).
- Current research evidence shows that effective learning is associated with using a multimodal educational approach.

## Project Goals/Objectives

- To improve operating room (OR) nurses' documentation compliance and accuracy of surgical wound classification (SWC) by using a multimodal education approach to teach how to use the Association of PeriOperative Registered Nurses (AORN) SWC Decision Tree.

## Implementation Plan

- Intervention timeframe April to July 2022.



## Outcomes

- Ongoing post-intervention average inaccuracy rates were 4.13% (July to September 2022) and 5.66% (October to December).
- This represents a 72% decrease in SWCD inaccuracies.
- Subsequently, pre-intervention and post-intervention surgical site infection (SSI) rates were 0.36% and 0% respectively. A 100% decrease.

## Discussion

- Project outcomes support successful implementation of innovative multimodal education strategy.
- This EBP project supports the safety culture/zero harm initiative within the OR via reduction of surgical wound misclassification, and thereby preventing potential complications.
- Nurse educator and leadership roles can enhance and positively influence changes to ensure continuous improvement in nursing clinical practice.

## Contact Information

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References available upon request



## Outcomes

Surgical Wound Classification Documentation Inaccuracy & Surgical Site Infection Rates  
January - December 2022

