

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

MAGNET RECOGNIZED

AMERICAN NURSES CREDENTIALING CENTER

Claudia Chanes, MSN, RN, CNOR & Aixa Esteve-Paz, BSN, RN, CNOR

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.

Learning methods consisted of 1:1 sessions, PowerPoint presentation, and lectures demonstrating appropriate assessment and correct documentation when using AORN SWC Decision Tree.

To assess education effectiveness, OR nurses were invited to attend workshops with pre- and post-test gaming (using Kahoot!).

Assessment of nursing SWCD accuracy involved a review of charts by surgical clinical nurse educator (CNE) from January to September 2022; SWCD in surgical operative notes were used as a point of comparison.

If same nurse had more than three inaccuracies within one week, CNE provided 1:1 learning assessment and self-remediation/accountability process.

Outcomes

Surgical Wound Classification Documentation Inaccuracy & Surgical Site Infection Rates



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

Claudia Chanes – Clinical Nurse Educator claudiach@baptisthealth.net

Aixa Esteve-Paz – Patient Care Manager aixae@baptisthealth.net

References available upon request

