

# TIME TO TACKLE SURGICAL SITE INFECTIONS

## The burden

Surgical site infections (SSIs) represent up to



acquired in a healthcare setting<sup>1</sup>.



of all surgical patients develop an SSI<sup>2</sup>, an estimated

**60,000**  
patients per year.

Each SSI has been estimated to cost between

**£10,000<sup>2</sup>** and **£100,000<sup>3</sup>**  
per patient.

## Expert opinion

In September, Mölnlycke and the Health Service Journal brought together leading experts from across the NHS to discuss how we can reduce infection in the operating theatre<sup>4</sup>.

### Here's what we learnt:

- » **Accurate and effective SSI reporting** - Must take place at all levels – from Trust to board.
- » **Address needs** - Listen to the needs and preferences of surgeons, nurses and healthcare professionals on the ground, ensuring they have the **equipment to fight infections across the patient pathway**.
- » **Deliver training** - Hospital trusts must provide access to in-house training **to staff at every level to reduce SSIs**, reflecting the latest guidance and best practice.
- » **Ensure high quality** - Items such as high-quality surgical gloves **have a vital role to play helping to minimise SSIs**.

## Taking action

How you can help reduce SSI infections in line with 2019 Getting It Right First Time<sup>3</sup> (GIRFT):

**Ensure** your trust is prospectively monitoring its surgical units' deep incisional and organ/space SSI rates and utilise national data to help benchmark your own performance

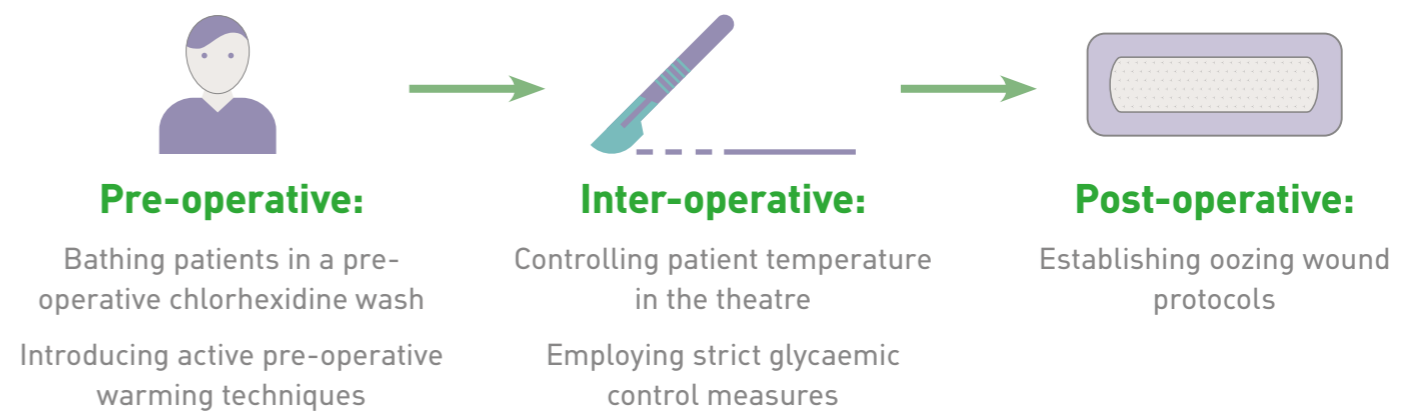
**Encourage** your local NHS trust to register with the [Surgical Site Infection Surveillance Service](#)

**Establish** a multidisciplinary approach to help reduce infection risk pre, peri and post operatively throughout the patient journey



## Best practice

The Getting it Right First Time SSI National Survey outlined a number of measures introduced at Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. Introducing a multi-disciplinary approach reduced early infection rates to **0.24%** and led to potential savings of up to **£2m<sup>3</sup>**. Some of the measures included:



## Mölnlycke is dedicated to helping the NHS reduce surgical site infections

**REFERENCES:** 1. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence, Surgical site infections: prevention and treatment NICE guideline [NG125], 2019, <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng125/chapter/Context>  
 2. Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, Keep Calm. Stay Warm. A Quality Improvement Initiative to prevent Surgical Site Infection (SSI) through Perioperative Temperature Management, 2020, <https://www.gloshospitals.nhs.uk/work-for-us/training-staff/gsqia/quality-improvements/KeepCalm-StayWarm/>  
 3. Getting it Right First Time, SSI National Survey, April 2019, <https://gettingitrightfirsttime.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/SSI-Report-GIRFT-APRIL19e-FINAL.pdf>  
 4. HSJ, Roundtable: Infection prevention and control, 2019, <https://www.hsj.co.uk/patient-safety/roundtable-infection-prevention-and-control/7026333.article>