

# Patient Safety Indicators



## Surgical Site Infection Prevention Indicator (SSI)

One of the ways to prevent surgical site infections is by giving patients antibiotics as a preventive measure, just before the surgical incision is made. The timing of this antibiotic administration is crucial as there is a designated 'window' of time for starting and finishing the antibiotic infusion before the surgical incision. While this time varies depending on the antibiotic, it is generally 0 to 60 minutes for usual antibiotics or 0 to 120 minutes for an antibiotic known as Vancomycin. This 'best practice' is used at all three Halton Healthcare Services community hospitals.

### Hip and Knee Total Joint Replacement Surgeries

The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care has chosen the antibiotic use and timing 'best practice' for hip and knee joint replacement surgeries as the first SSI-Prevention Indicator which Ontario hospitals are required to publicly report.

### SSI Prevention Indicator (Antibiotic Timing) Rates

The SSI-Prevention rate is the percentage of time our health care team at HHS gave patients the antibiotics within the appropriate time period (60 minutes for usual antibiotics and 120 minutes for an antibiotic called Vancomycin) before the hip or knee joint replacement surgery. Only patients, 18 years or older, who are about to undergo primary hip or knee joint replacement surgery are included.

### Rates of Surgical Site Infections at HHS

	Optimal Antibiotic Use & Timing		
	Oct. - Dec. 2010	Jan. - Mar. 2010	Apr. - June 2010
Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital	100%	99.15%	100%

#### Reporting Hospitals

At HHS, hip and knee total joint replacement surgeries are only performed at the Oakville Hospital. These surgeries are not done at our Georgetown or Milton Hospitals and therefore, not included in this report.

#### Reporting Period

The SSI Infection Prevention Indicator will be updated quarterly.

### Preventing Surgical Site Infections

Our hospital has implemented a number of 'best practices' that are known to help reduce the chance of acquiring an infection at the surgical site. Some of the key ones include:

- optimal timing and type of antibiotics given before the surgical incision.
- no hair removal at the incision site (razors should never be used, clippers are acceptable).
- measures to maintain the patients' normal body temperature during the surgery.

Updated: July 2010