

Appendix 1

*Definitions of surgical site infections, modified from 1990 CDC criteria: <http://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/SSI/table1-SSI.html>.

1. Superficial infection

Infection involves only skin or subcutaneous tissue of the incision and at least one of the following:

- ❖ Purulent drainage from the superficial incision.
- ❖ Organisms isolated from culture of fluid or tissue from the superficial incision.
- ❖ At least one of the following signs or symptoms of infection: pain or tenderness, localized swelling, redness, or heat and superficial incision is deliberately opened by surgeon, unless incision is culture-negative.
- ❖ Diagnosis of superficial incisional SSI by the surgeon or attending physician.

2. Deep infection

Infection appears to be related to the operation and infection involves deep soft tissues (e.g., fascial and muscle layers) of the incision and at least of the following:

- ❖ Purulent drainage from the deep incision but not from the organ/space component of the surgical site.
- ❖ A deep incision spontaneously dehisces or is

deliberately opened by a surgeon when the patient has at least one of the following signs or symptoms: fever (>38 °C), localized pain, or tenderness, unless site is culture-negative.

- ❖ An abscess or other evidence of infection involving the deep incision is found on direct examination, during reoperation, or by histopathologic or radiologic examination.
- ❖ Diagnosis of a deep incisional SSI by a surgeon or attending physician.

3. Organ-space infection

Infection involves any part of the anatomy (e.g., organs or spaces), other than the incision, which was opened or manipulated during an operation and at least one of the following:

- ❖ Purulent drainage from a drain that is placed through a stab wound‡ into the organ/space.
- ❖ Organisms isolated from an aseptically obtained culture of fluid or tissue in the organ/space.
- ❖ An abscess or other evidence of infection involving the organ/space that is found on direct examination, during reoperation, or by histopathologic or radiologic examination.
- ❖ Diagnosis of an organ/space SSI by a surgeon or attending physician.