# TURNING QUALITY WORK INTO SCHOLARLY WORK

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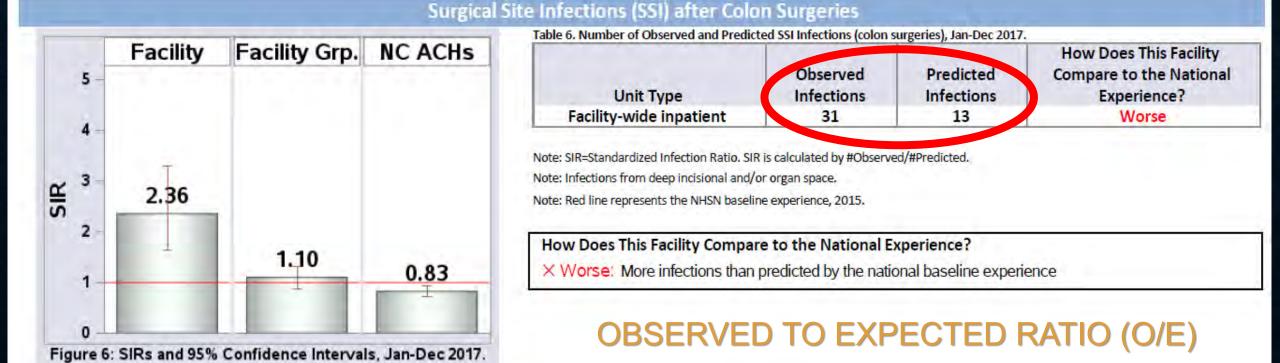


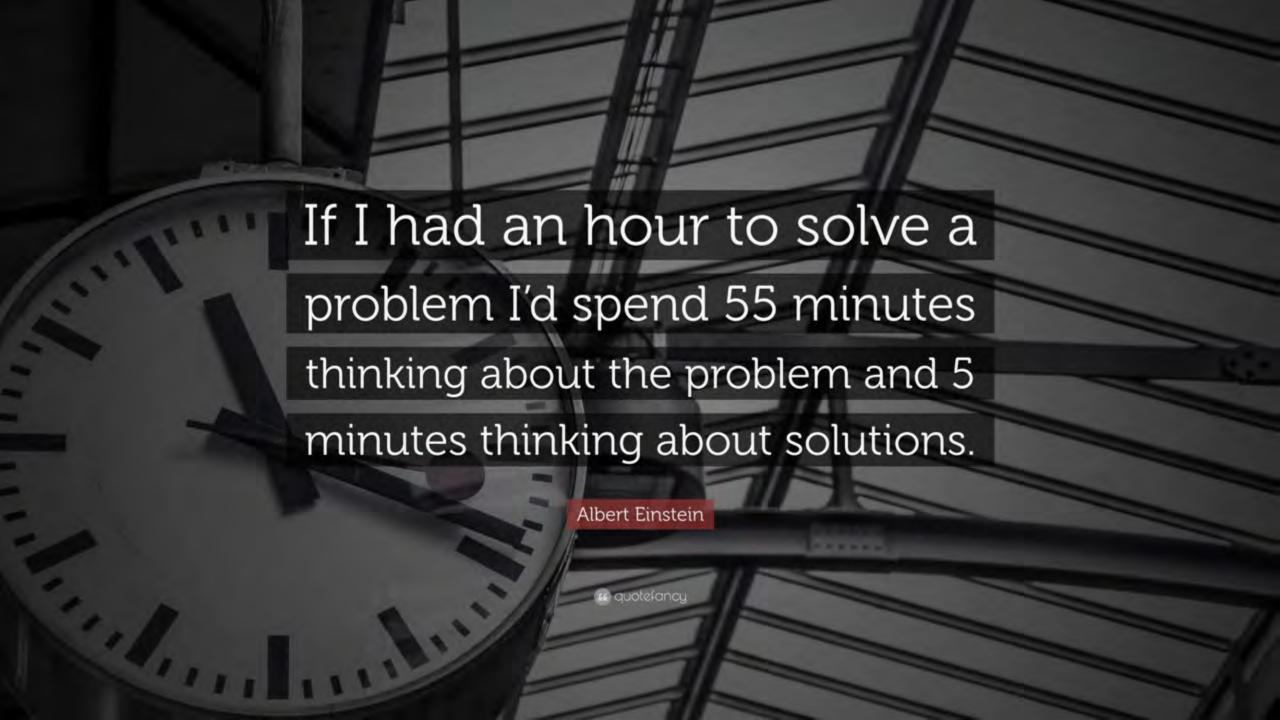
#### **OBJECTIVES**

- Walk through planning stages of quality projects with an eye towards future presentation and publication
- Differentiate between Research and Quality improvement
- Discuss the types of scholarly products that can come from QI work
- Review the SQUIRE format for publishing QI
- Introduce other QI related efforts for career advancement

#### THE PROBLEM

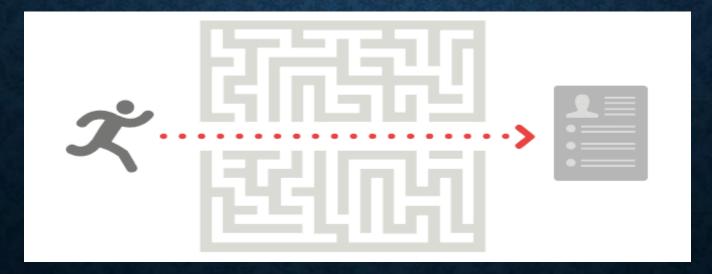
- Hospital payments are tied to quality.
- Vidant quality data reveals that infections after colorectal operations are high.
- The Vidant Operating Room Committee assessed the problem.



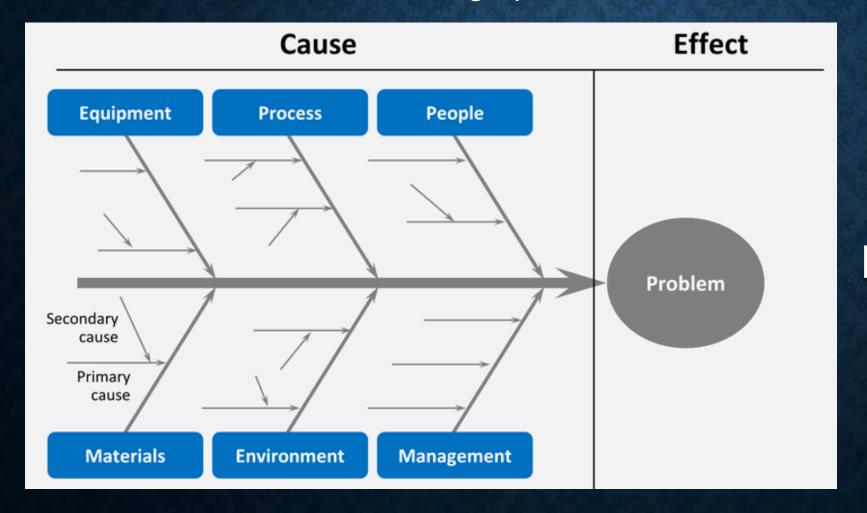


#### PLAN

- Integrate quality projects into your everyday work/workflow
  - The Operating Room Committee
- Build your team, including stakeholders
  - Surgeons, Nurses, Anesthesia, Sterile Processing, OR Administration, EMR experts, Quality Department



- Identify the gap between current and desired
- Keep a record of the process
- Utilize visual tools future graphics





#### **DEFINE THE GAP**

#### **BACKGROUND**

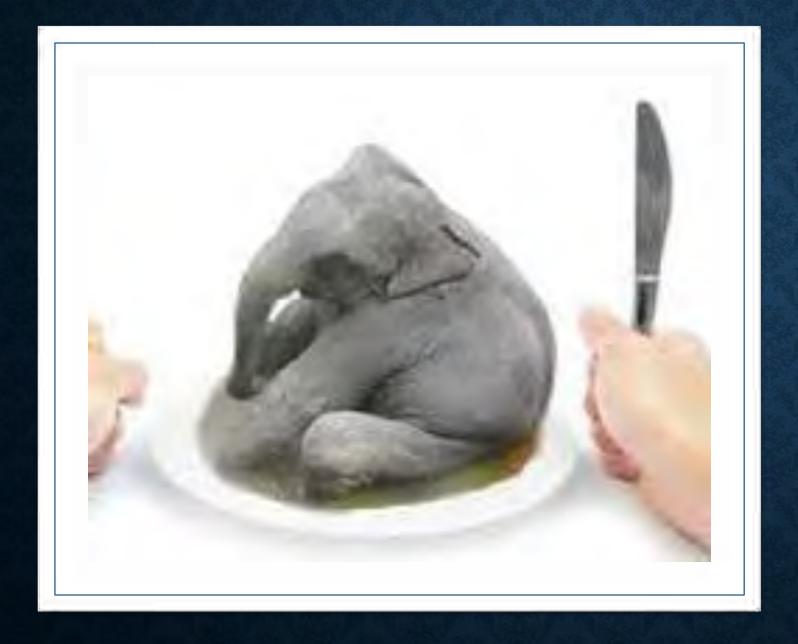
- Run background literature search
- Note strategies used, especially data collection and presentation
- Identify differences from other publications
- Develop your reference list

Borrow
Brilliance
but give
credit.

### DEFINE THE PROJECT(S)

Define your goal, objective, outcomes

- Goal Better reimbursement due to higher quality metrics
- Strategy Identify opportunities for lowering infections
- Objective Lower the O/E ratio of colorectal infections
- Tactics actual changes, PDSA Cycles

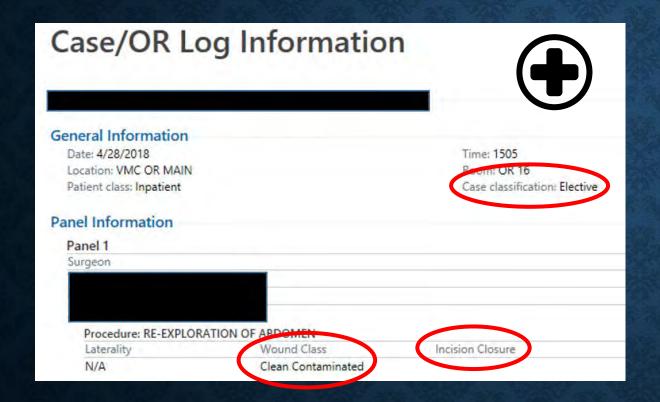


## SMART GOALS

- Specific
- <u>M</u>easurable
- Achievable
- Relevant
- Time Constrained

Break larger projects into smaller ones

#### THREE TACTICS



DOCUMENT CASE TYPE, WOUND CLASS AND CLOSURE



RIGHT DRUG, RIGHT TIME, REDOSE



**CLEAN INSTRUMENT CLOSING TRAY** 

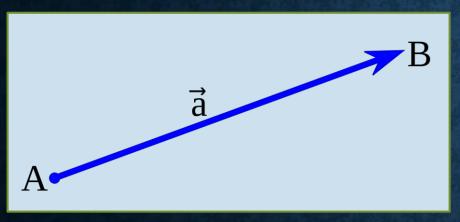
#### IT'S ALL ABOUT DATA

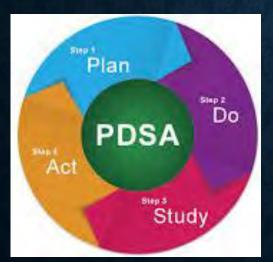
- Database information
- Measurements
- Checklists
- Time
- Patients touched
- Dollars spent, saved, made
- Accuracy of entry

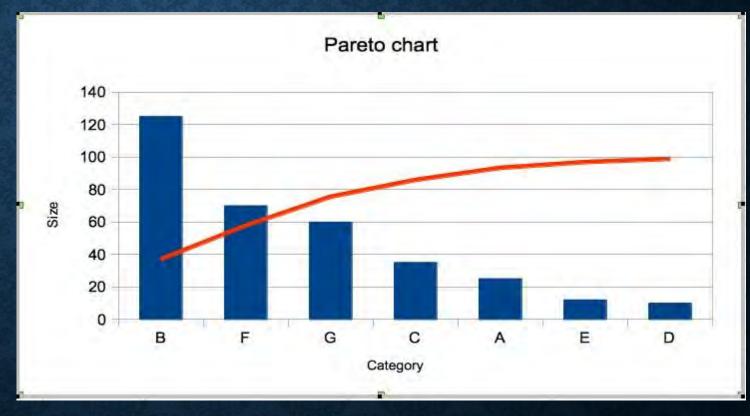
- Patient satisfaction
- Employee satisfaction
- Reputation
- Forecasting data
- Balancing/unintended data



### MORE IS BETTER







#### THE PROJECT PLAN INCLUSIONS

- Write up your project plan(s), ideally with references
- Divide credit roles
  - Project Team
  - Roles and responsibilities
  - Authorship responsibilities
- Plan for academic products
  - Carrot for effort



#### Research



## **Quality Improvement**

- Develop or contribute to knowledge
- Rigid controlled protocol
- Future patient benefit
- Subject risk
- Answers a specific question
- Investigators obliged to share results

- To assess and improve a system
- Adaptive, iterative design
- May not benefit patients
- No increased risk (perhaps privacy)
- Improves problem
- Infrequently reported

## FOUR QUESTION QUALITY TEST

http://www.ecu.edu/cs-acad/oric/irb/FAQs.cfm	True	False
The PRIMARY purpose of the proposed activity or project is to learn about or learn from existing care to IMPROVE what is done here at the local institution with regard to patient outcomes, efficiency, cost, patient/staff satisfaction, etc.		
The activity or project would be carried out even if there was <u>no</u> possibility of publication in a journal or presentation at an academic meeting. (**Please note that answering "True" to this statement does not preclude publication of a quality activity.)		
The activity or project falls under well-accepted care practices/guidelines.		
The activity or project involves no more than minimal risk procedures meaning the probability and magnitude of harm or discomfort anticipated are not greater in and of themselves than those ordinarily encountered in daily life or during the performance of routine physical or psychological examinations or tests.		

#### REGULATORY PREPARATION

- IRB some publications require this in writing
  - Full Full board review of risk to participants, selection, consent, etc.
  - Expedited Faster approval for low risk of harm
  - Exempt Research, but exempt from IRB review (eg, educational research, benign behavioral research, etc.)
- CITI training Human research ethics
- Good Clinical Practice training international standards
- Social/Behavioral Research training



## **EXECUTE THE PROJECT**



### **SCHOLARLY PRODUCTS**

Presentations

**Publications** 

**Grant Funding** 

Teaching

Team Committee

Leadership

Professional Organizations

Certifications

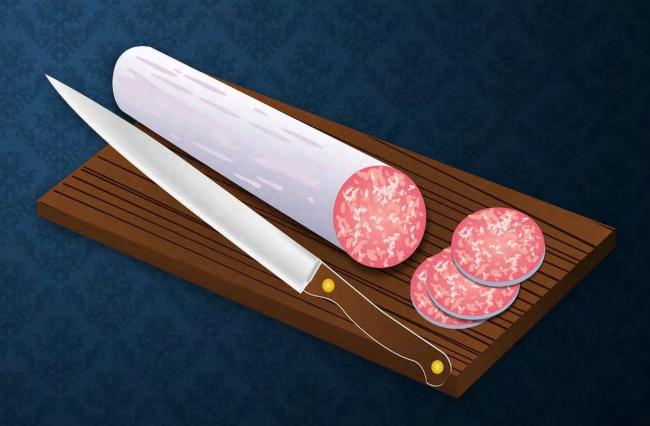
Advanced Degrees

Social Media

Awards

#### SUBMIT TO CONFERENCES

- Good start abstract submissions to conferences
- Thinner slices for meetings
  - Poster vs Oral
- Thicker for publications



#### **CONFERENCE CONSIDERATIONS**



- Local/Institutional ECU, ECU/Vidant, GME
- Regional state societies, general and by specialty
- National/International
  - specialty (surgery, nursing, hospital based)
  - topic (quality, IT, education)
  - author type (faculty, student, resident)
- Watch out for duplication rules
- Tailor the abstract to the audience

#### PRESENTATION FAILS

- I know this is a busy slide, but...."
- Small font
- Overdone background/graphics
- Be very, very careful with videos
- Read all the slides



#### **CHOOSE A HOME FOR WRITTEN PROJECT**

#### **Quality Improvement and Implementation Science**

American Journal of Medical Quality

**BMJ Quality & Safety** 

**BMJ Quality Improvement Reports** 

Implementation Science

Joint Commission Journal on Quality and Patient Safety

Journal for Healthcare Quality

Journal of Clinical Outcomes Management

#### Health Policy, Research, and Management

**BMC Family Practice** 

**Health Affairs** 

Health Care Management Review

Health Care: The Journal of Delivery Science and Innovation

Health Services Research

International Journal for Quality in Health Care

Journal of Evaluation in Clinical Practice

**Medical Decision Making** 

**Quality Management in Health Care** 

Journal of Healthcare Risk Management

#### Nursing

American Journal of Nursing
Journal of Nursing Care Quality
Journal of Pediatric Nursing

#### Medicine

Journal of the American Medical Association

The New England Journal of Medicine

The BMJ

The Lancet

**Academic Medicine** 

Journal of Graduate Medical Education

#### **Specialty Practice**

**Quality in Primary Care** 

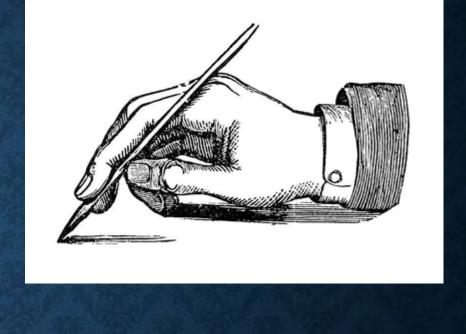
For further help and suggestions:

Yale Journals for Publication

IHI Where to Submit QI

## WRITING! GREAT! WHERE DO WE START?

- Increased QI submissions
- Inconsistency in reporting format
- Framework to approaching and presenting QI initiatives.
- Helps with planning, organizing, reporting
- SQUIRE guidelines Developed in 2008, updated in 2015





www.squire-statement.org

### Why did you start?

• Intro, Background, Specific Aim

#### What did you do?

Methods, Interventions

### SQUIRE 2.0 FOUR QUESTIONS

### What did you **find**?

Results, Analyses

#### What does it mean?

• Summary, Limitations, Conclusions

#### **TITLE AND ABSTRACT**

TITLE

Indicate that the manuscript concerns an initiative to improve healthcare (broadly defined to include the quality, safety, effectiveness, patient-centeredness, timeliness, cost, efficiency, and equity of healthcare)

- a. Provide adequate information to aid in searching and indexing
- b. Summarize all key information from various sections of the text using the abstract format of the intended publication or a structured summary such as: background, local problem, methods, interventions, results, conclusions

## WHY DID YOU START? INTRODUCTION

3. PROBLEMON 3. PROBLEMON 3. OESCRIPTION

Nature and significance of the local problem

Summary of what is currently known about the problem, including relevant previous studies

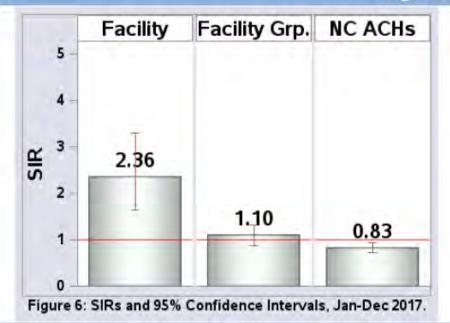
Informal or formal frameworks, models, concepts, and/or theories used to explain the problem, any reasons or assumptions that were used to develop the intervention(s), and reasons why the intervention(s) was expected to work

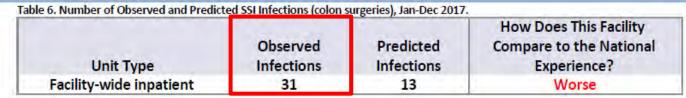
Purpose of the project and of this report

## NC HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS REPORT

JANUARY 1 – DECEMBER 31, 2017: VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER

#### Surgical Site Infections (SSI) after Colon Surgeries





Note: SIR=Standardized Infection Ratio. SIR is calculated by #Observed/#Predicted.

Note: Infections from deep incisional and/or organ space.

Note: Red line represents the NHSN baseline experience, 2015.

#### How Does This Facility Compare to the National Experience?

X Worse: More infections than predicted by the national baseline experience

Refer to HAI in N.C. Reference Report for further explanation of presented statistics (epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/hai/figures/hai\_may2016\_reference.pdf).

Data as of April 5, 2018.

N.C. Division of Public Health, SHARPPS Program

Generated: April 11, 2018 N.C. HAI 2017 Q4 Report

#### NOT ONLY CLINICAL DEFICIENCY, BUT SYSTEMIC

- Estimated \$18,000 cost per infection
- 2017 Observed: Predicted Infections was 31:13, resulting in **18** observed infections over the predicted.
- That equals roughly \$324,000 in missed cost savings from 2017.
- Thought process and evaluation can be applied to other institutions to help bring overall cost of healthcare.

#### SO WHY DID WE START?

What's the problem?

Colorectal SSIs are significantly high for VMC.

Why is it relevant?

This is both a patient safety and systems-based problem, leading to increased healthcare costs and decreased reimbursement.

What do we know?

Accurate data entry, peri-operative antibiotic use, and a dedicated wound closure tray have been shown to improve SSI O/E ratio.

What is the rationale?

VMC had inaccurate documentation, did not always follow antibiotic guidelines, and did not utilize a dedicated wound closure tray. Changes to these three factors may improve outcomes.

#### WHAT IS THE SPECIFIC AIM OF THE PROJECT?

#### Use SMART method to define

- Specific: All colorectal operations at VMC
- Measurable: O/E ratio per NHSN database
- Achievable: Yes
- Relevance: Directly related to CMS reimbursement
- Time-constrained: One year

"Improve O/E ratio for all colorectal operations to improve our CMS reimbursement within one year."

#### PITFALLS WRITING THE INTRODUCTION

- Too long
- Too much review on importance
- Too little review on evidence gap
- Specific project aim not clearly articulated

## WHAT DID YOU DO? METHODS

#### 7. CONTEXT

Contextual elements considered important at the outset of introducing the intervention(s)

- a. Description of the intervention(s) in sufficient detail that others could reproduce it
- b. Specifics of the team involved in the work
- a. Approach chosen for assessing the impact of the intervention(s)
- b. Approach used to establish whether the observed outcomes were due to the intervention

## 9. STUDY OF THE INTERVENTIONS

## WHAT DID YOU DO? METHODS

#### 10. MEASURES



- a. Measures chosen for studying processes and outcomes of the intervention(s), including rationale for choosing them, their operational definitions, and their validity and reliability
- b. Description of the approach to the ongoing assessment of contextual elements that contributed to the success, failure, efficiency, and cost
- c. Methods employed for assessing completeness and accuracy of data

## WHAT DID YOU DO? METHODS

XYSIS

- a. Qualitative and quantitative methods used to draw inferences from the data
- b. Methods for understanding variation within the data, including the effects of time as a variable

CTHICS

Ethical aspects of implementing and studying the intervention(s) and how they were addressed, including, but not limited to, formal ethics review and potential conflict(s) of interest

## UNDERSTANDING OUR DATA DESCRIBE RISK FACTORS INFLUENCING THE O/E RATIO

- Wound Class
- Closure Technique
- Emergency status
- ASA
- Height/Weight
- Trauma

- Scope
- Diabetes
- Outpatient
- Duration
- General Anesthesia

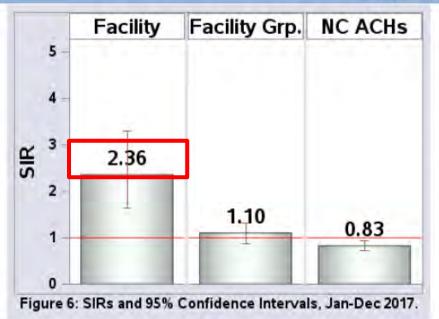
Frequently UNDERCLASSIFIED

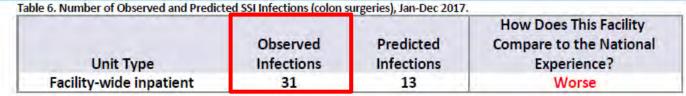


## NC Healthcare-Associated Infections Report

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# DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT, DOCUMENT

- OR nurse primarily responsible for inputting details
- Incumbent on surgical team to ensure accuracy
- Department-wide education on class definitions



Form Approved OMB No. 0920-0666 Exp. Date: 01/31/2021 www.cdc.gov/nhsn

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### **Denominator for Procedure**

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Facility ID	Procedure #:	
*Patient ID:	Social Security #:	
Secondary ID:	Medicare #:	
Patient Name, Last:	First:	Middle:
*Gender: F M Other	*Date of B	Sirth:
Ethnicity (Specify):	Race (Specify):	
Event Type: PROC	*NHSN Procedure Code:	
*Date of Procedure:	ICD-10-PCS or CPT Procedure Code:	
Procedure Details		
*Outpatient: Yes No		*Duration:Minutes
*Wound Class: C CC CO D		*General Anesthesia: Yes No
ASA Score: 1 2 3 4 5		*Emergency: Yes No
*Trauma: Yes No *Scope: Yes	No	*Diabetes Mellitus: Yes No
*Height:feetinches		*Closure Technique: Primary Other than primary
(choose one)meters *Weight:lbs/kg (circle one)		Surgeon Code:

# SURGICAL DEBRIEF

- Instituted standardized protocol at end of every case
- Keeps all members of team clear of surgical details
- Posters placed in every room to ensure information available
- Can incorporate graphic into publication

### Surgical Debrief Checklist



#### Debrief

- · Pre and Post op diagnosis
- Procedure Performed
  - Site of Procedure
  - Laterality
- Specimens identified and labeled
- Wound Class
- Incision closure documented
- · Counts are correct
- · Key concerns for recovery and management of this patient
- Equipment problems
- Preference card changes

#### Classification of Surgical Wounds

Type of wound	Features	
Clean	No hollow viscus entered     Primary wound closure     No inflammation	No breaks in septic technique     Elective procedure
Clean Contaminated	Hollow viscus entered but controlled     No inflammation     Primary wound closure	Minor break in aseptic technique     Mechanical drain used     Bowel preparation preop
Contaminated	Uncontrolled spillage from viscus     Inflammation apparent     Major break in aseptic technique	
Dirty	Untreated, uncontrolled spillage from viscus     Pus in operative wound     Open suppurative wound, severe inflammation	

Surgical Debrial Checkist 22.18

# WRITING UP METHODS - SO WHAT DID WE DO?

## Context?

- Small city, 900-bed regional referral center, affiliated with academic institution
- All colorectal surgical cases, elective and emergent
- The team Surgeons, residents, APPs, nursing, and anesthesia

### Interventions?

- "Debriefing" protocol
- Enforced peri-operative antibiotic protocol
- Created dedicated wound closure tray

# WRITING UP METHODS - SO WHAT DID WE DO?

# Describe Approach to Interventions

- Education for all
- Creation of posters
- Attention antibiotics in "time-out"
- Addition of debriefing
- New process Creation of new tray system change involving sterile processing, OR circulating, surgeon, billing codes, etc.

# SO WHAT DID WE DO?

# Measures? Describe what and how it is collected!

- All data abstracted per usual by quality groups
- Sampling nursing documentation for completion
- Plan to track and ensure Debriefs completed
- Review antibiotic administration
- Consider potential unintended measures/consequences of changes

# SO WHAT DID WE DO?

# Analysis?

- Reanalyze 2018 data
- PDSA cycles as data become available
  - Debrief needs further enforcing/support
  - Possible documentation review on monitors
- Future PDSA considerations
  - Role of irrigation
  - Role of bowel prep
  - Role of wound protectors

### Ethical considerations?

• In this case, none.



# PITFALLS WRITING METHODS

- Superficial description of, or general lack of attention to, context
- No theory supporting intervention reported
- Many intervention steps reduced to single intervention
- No consideration for potential harms in addition to benefits
- Single measure used to track project impact

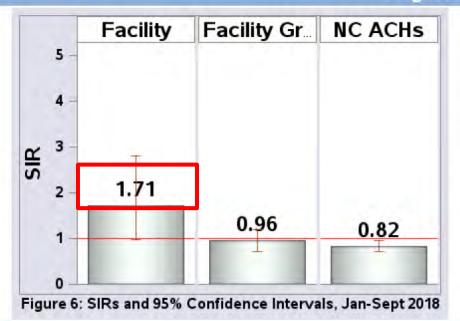
# WHAT DID YOU FIND? 13. RESULTS

- a. Initial steps of the intervention(s) and their evolution over time (e.g., time-line diagram, flow chart, or table), including modifications made to the intervention during the project
- b. Details of the process measures and outcome
- c. Contextual elements that interacted with the intervention(s)
- d. Observed associations between outcomes, interventions, and relevant contextual elements
- e. Unintended consequences such as unexpected benefits, problems, failures, or costs associated with the intervention(s).
- f. Details about missing data

# NC HEALTHCARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS REPORT

JANUARY 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2018: VIDANT MEDICAL CENTER

#### Surgical Site Infections (SSI) after Colon Surgeries





Note: SIR=Standardized Infection Ratio. SIR is calculated by #Observed/#Predicted.

Note: Infections from deep incisional and/or organ space.

Note: Red line represents the NHSN baseline experience, 2015.

#### How Does This Facility Compare to the National Experience?

= Same: About the same number of infections as predicted by the national baseline experience

#### Ventilator-Associated Events (VAE)

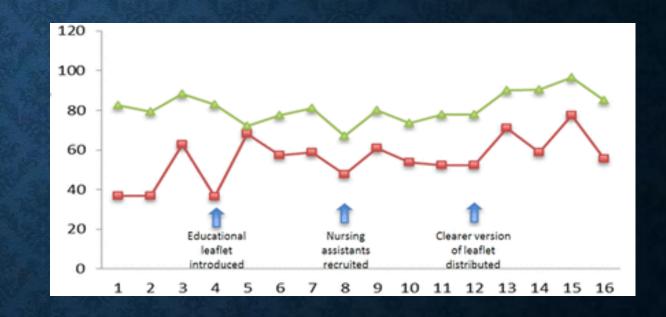
Refer to HAI in N.C. Reference Report for further explanation of presented statistics (epi.publichealth.nc.gov/cd/hai/figures/hai\_qtrly\_report\_reference\_document\_2018.pdf). Data as of December 6, 2018.

N.C. Division of Public Health, SHARPPS Program

Generated: December 7, 2018 N.C. HAI 2018 Q3 Report

# SO WHAT DID WE FIND?

- Still early in process, but so far promising
- Documentation has improved O/E ratio and reported metrics
- Antibiotics administration to be evaluated
- Wound closure tray just implemented in late November 2018



# PITFALLS IN REPORTING DATA

- Not enough data to warrant publication
- Data aggregated as simple before-after design
- Graphs difficult to read
- Errors in statistical analysis

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN? DISCUSSION

- a. Key findings, including relevance to the rationale and specific aims
- b. Particular strengths of the project
- a. Nature of the association between the intervention(s) and the outcomes
- b. Comparison of results with findings from other publications
- c. Impact of the project on people and systems
- Reasons for any differences between observed and anticipated outcomes, including influence of context
- e. Costs and strategic trade-offs, including opportunity costs

A.A. SUMMARY

# WHAT DOES IT MEAN? DISCUSSION

- 46. LIMITATIONS
- a. Limits to the generalizability of the work
- b. Factors that might have limited internal validity such as confounding, bias, or imprecision in the design, methods, measurement, or analysis
- c. Efforts made to minimize and adjust for limitations
- a. Usefulness of the work
- b. Sustainability
- c. Potential for spread to other contexts
- d. Implications for practice and for further study in the field
- e. Suggested next steps

## SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

# Summary

 Our true facility O/E ratio was at least partially falsely elevated

# Interpretation

- Raised awareness of importance of documentation and involving all members of team
- Evaluate impact on system through morbidity and cost benefit

# SO WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

## Limitations

- Inability to assess impact of each of three initial individual interventions
- Potential confounding of other patient variables with this year compared to prior

### Conclusions

- Significant cost benefits both locally and to healthcare system in general
- Can be generalized and implemented across institutions
- Could use this approach to other procedural areas, such as Endoscopy, IR,
   Cath lab

# PITFALLS IN DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSION

- Discussion limited to implications for local institution or setting
- Results repeated without analysis or deeper reflection
- Reflections omitted
- Lessons and context effects omitted
- Listing of limitations, as if all of equal importance, without thoughtful consideration of potential effects
- Overgeneralize from study site to all settings

# 18. FUNDING

Sources of funding that supported this work. Role, if any, of the funding organization in the design, implementation, interpretation, and reporting

- Grants Largest is AHRQ
- Local foundations, quality consortiums, faculty vs students, professional memberships
- Success with smaller projects builds credibility
- Add successful grants to CV





# RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- Process of the project
- Culture, policy, management changes
- Review paper/metanalysis on the topic of the project
- Book Chapter
- Guidelines on the topic
  - Manuscript
  - AHRQ Database
- Editorials/letters
- Long-term follow up

# **FURTHER THE SCHOLARLY PORTFOLIO**

# Teaching QI – mentor others, make a name!

- Formal vs Informal
- Courses, conferences
- Judge

### Committee Service

- Project team and related institutional committees
- Report on CV and annual productivity
- Network

### Leadership

- Within the QI team
- Titles that go with efforts

# PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Volunteer for committees
  - Contact committee chairs
- Attend conferences, even if not presenting
  - Approach leaders business cards
  - Offer to moderate
- Journal benefits
- Opportunities for grants, awards



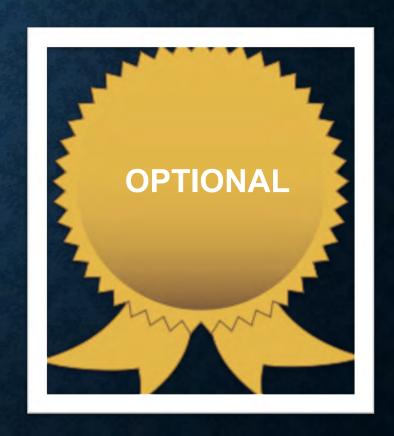
# **QUALITY PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- Institute for Healthcare Improvement
- National Association for Healthcare Quality
- American Board of Quality Assurance and Utilization Review Physicians
- American Institute of Healthcare Quality
- Center for Improvement in Healthcare Quality



# **CERTIFICATIONS**

- Exam Based Certification
  - Certified Professional in Healthcare Quality
  - Certificate of Health Care Quality and Management
- Course Completion Certificates
  - Open School Basic Certificate (IHI)
  - Certificate of Healthcare Quality (AIHQ)
- Certify by Technique
  - Six Sigma Green, Black, Master
- Masters Degrees
  - Online vs In person, with a capstone
  - 1-2 years



# PROMOTION TO PROPAGATE



- Use your social media caution: watch for embargos
  - Youtube videos
  - Twitter pictogram/single slide, tag organizations, #topic
  - Facebook your page, as above
- Inform superiors, making your success their success
- Apply for awards
- Connect Pursue collaborations, ask for mentorship

# SUMMARY

- Incorporate quality work into your workflow
- Planning for scholarly work is essential
- Smaller projects get you to conferences
- Bigger projects and data for publications
- Utilize standard reporting formats, such as SQUIRE
- Create a body of work with multiple products
- Consider grants, certifications, and other aspects of academic advancement
- Promote your successes!