

Overview of CDC/CMS/AHQA Study on Surgical Site Infections

In 2001, researchers collected baseline data for the launch of the Surgical Infection Prevention (SIP) project which is sponsored jointly by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

As part of the SIP project, Quality Improvement Organizations skilled in helping medical institutions redesign systems of care began providing technical assistance to hospitals in every state since 2001. Typically, QIOs bring together surgical teams from a number of hospitals for a series of training sessions aimed at incorporating infection prevention into treatment protocols. Already, QIOs in 32 states report hospitals taking part in this training have shown significant improvement. For example in Texas:

- The Texas Surgical Infection Prevention Collaborative concluded with an Outcomes Congress held in Austin on July 19, 2004. Four hospitals presented their improvement methods, and guest speakers described the evidence supporting SIP performance measures and the role of glucose control in preventing surgical infections. A total of 50 hospitals began the project in August 2003, and 42 completed it. Some 42 hospitals increased the proportion of surgical patients receiving antibiotics within one hour of incision from 61.6 percent to 84.7 percent.
- Working with Texas Medical Foundation, Methodist Dallas Medical Center Neurosurgery and Orthopedic Surgery departments were able to boost performance dramatically on five of six SIP quality indicators, and achieved 95 percent compliance. Two Texas hospitals, The Physicians Centre Bryan and Memorial Hermann the Woodlands Hospital, achieved 100 percent compliance on two SIP measures.