

# PREVENTION OF SURGICAL INFECTIONS

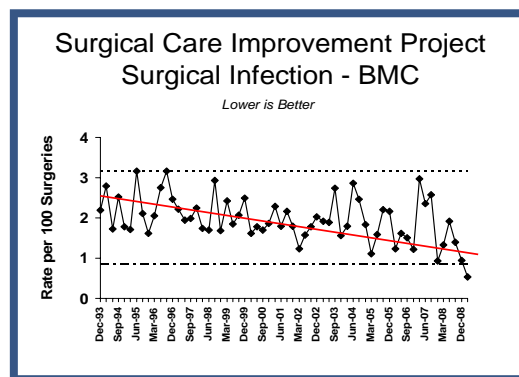
## ***Where we've been...***

**P**reventing Surgical Infections (SI) Various measures and practices influence the ability to decrease surgical site infections. They include reliable delivery of appropriate peri-operative antibiotic prophylaxis (timing-60 minutes prior to incision, selection, and duration—discontinued within 24 hours of surgery end time), appropriate hair removal, keeping patients warm and oxygenated, and controlling blood glucose levels. These interventions have been shown to decrease rates of surgical infections if they are applied correctly every time. Surgical team member compliance with best practices in sterilization, aseptic technique, attire, and peri-operative preparation of the patient are additional measures Baystate Health peri-operative staff have focused on to prevent surgical infections.

## ***Where we are now...***

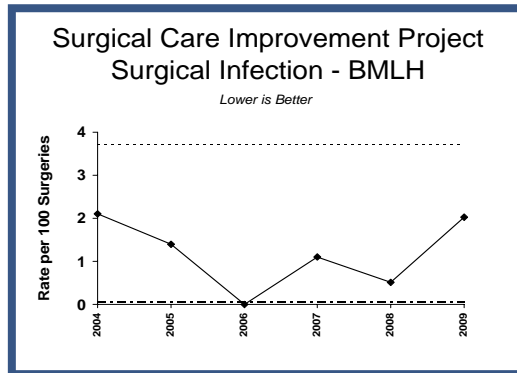
**BAYSTATE MEDICAL CENTER** BMC was a leader in the initial 2002 CDC/CMS-sponsored national project to reduce surgical infections and has continued to focus on SI elimination and prevention of other post-operative complications (SCIP). BMC's reliability in providing prevention processes is high as a result of using reliability principles, such as "opt-out," to redesign our processes. In the Opt-Out model, the clinician has to actively choose not to apply or prescribe the agreed-on process or intervention. Typically, selecting to opt-out is more time consuming or difficult than allowing the agreed-on process to occur as part of the flow of work. Using this model promotes the desired action (the default) to be applied more consistently to a greater number of eligible patients.

Surgical Services continues to demonstrate its commitment to reducing complications and improving care. Interventions implemented this past year include focus on surgical team hand hygiene and scrub technique, decreasing flash sterilization, acquiring additional instrumentation, surgical team attire, and managing traffic patterns in the OR, along with reviewing and updating techniques and procedures to reflect best practices, and adopting new technology to limit invasive surgical procedures. Because of this work, our SI rate has continued to decrease every year and is now among the best in the nation for an academic training center. Each case of SI prompts a potentially preventable case review ("mini" root cause analysis) to identify "misses" in order to learn and provide feedback to the patient care team about how to prevent future SIs.

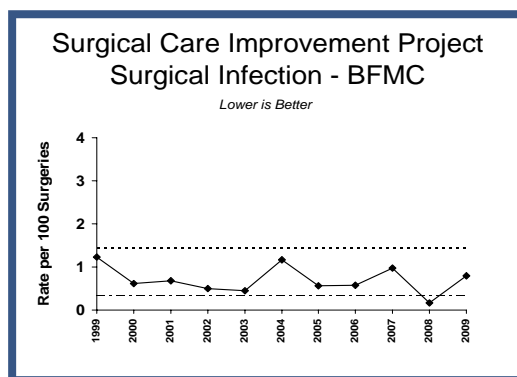


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**BAYSTATE MARY LANE HOSPITAL** BMLH is focusing on SI elimination and prevention of other post-operative complications. BMLH Surgical Services is participating in the system-wide Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP). BMLH has developed a SCIP worksheet that accompanies each chart; individual interventions are checked as completed. The tool is used to prompt appropriate population-specific care, as well as to provide a real-time process review. While the SI rate had increased in CY'09 Q1, the SI rate is trending down, with no infections noted in the last 2 months.



**BAYSTATE FRANKLIN MEDICAL CENTER** BFMC Surgical Services is participating in the system-wide Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) to focus on prevention and elimination of surgical infections. Discontinuing antibiotic therapy within 24 hours after surgery is the current focus for improvement, and efforts are aimed at revisions to the post-operative orders. Feedback loops have been developed to provide timely information to all physicians and nursing staff if they miss an opportunity to provide optimal care. Process improvements in administration of antibiotic prophylaxis have contributed to the overall reduction in the infection rate, which is better than industry standards.



## ***Where we are going...***

BH has adopted a “zero tolerance” for potentially preventable surgical infections. Continued national and state focus on prevention of surgical infections and new requirements for state and national public reporting of SI rates, such as the Massachusetts Department of Public Health’s mandatory Hospital-Acquired Infection reporting, continue to drive Baystate Health’s commitment to preventing surgical infections.