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## **Quality improvement initiative: Reducing surgical site infections in medical facility serving the underserved population**

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**Introduction:** Surgical site infections (SSIs) are a preventable cause of increased morbidity and mortality. They comprise approximately 20% of all hospital-associated infections (HAIs) and are the second-most common type of HAIs in the United States. Previous studies have demonstrated that SSIs were the most common nosocomial infection in surgical patients and were responsible for 38% of all infections within that category. Surgical site infections lead to prolonged hospital stays, adjunctive procedures, and additive costs. SSI rates are an indicator of the quality of surgical and postoperative care, which calls for the need of increased surveillance systems for these infections.

**Methods:** A retrospective chart review will be conducted at a single medical institution providing care to the underserved population between 2015-2018 to evaluate the rate of surgical site infections between that time period. A patient safety curriculum will then be introduced to the institution on the prevention of SSIs. The final phase of the study will be to conduct a chart review to evaluate if there is a change in SSI rates at the institution.

**Results:** The residency program of the medical institution will receive a grand rounds lecture on patient safety and methods to prevent SSIs. An interactive review will then be conducted following the presentation to assess the level of understanding by all participants. This project is in its preliminary phase and will be an ongoing initiative.

**Conclusions:** Quality improvement initiatives are important in reviewing key concepts and methods of providing quality of care to patients. Developing institution-wide protocols and curricula that address these topics can aid in increasing surveillance systems monitoring concerns such as SSIs.

## **Biography**

Chukwuemeka Mbagwu is a general surgery preliminary intern who is committed to orthopaedic surgery. He is a graduate of Howard University College of Medicine and is currently training at Mt Sinai Hospital in Manhattan, NY. His research has been presented at the National Medical Association and the Eastern Orthopaedic Association.

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