

[P-111R] Strategies to improve the timing of surgical antibiotic prophylaxis in a veterans administration facility

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The incidence of surgical wound infections can be minimized with appropriate administration of prophylactic antimicrobial therapy. Timing of therapy can help to reduce surgical wound infections by allowing the concentration of antibiotic to be adequate for the procedure. It is recommended that administration of antibiotic therapy be complete before the time of initial incision. An initial review of operative records at our institution indicated >60% of patients had not received, or lacked documentation of, antibiotic prophylaxis prior to a surgical procedure. A significant number of patients had received therapy after the initial incision or had not completed therapy at the time of the initial incision. Completion of operative data with regard to antibiotic administration was often incomplete during the initial review. As a result, an interdisciplinary performance improvement initiative involving surgery, nursing, infectious disease, pharmacy and anesthesiology were developed. Pharmacy service obtains a surgery schedule and verifies antibiotic orders for each patient. Delivery of antibiotics to the surgery area is scheduled and an antibiotic data collection form is provided. Anesthesiology service is responsible for the administration of antibiotic prophylaxis and completion of the data collection form. The initiative is currently in progress. This paper will evaluate the impact of this approach on the appropriate administration and documentation of preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis.