

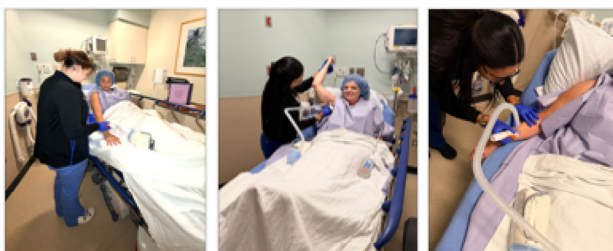
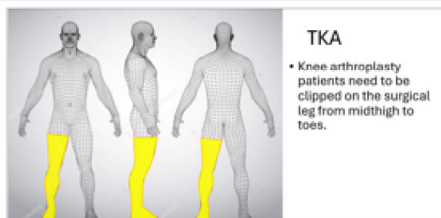
Description

The purpose of this activity is to explore how interdepartmental collaboration and targeted infection prevention practices—especially pre-op clipping and traffic control—can improve surgical outcomes and expand across multiple service lines.

Background

After a sustained downward trend in infection rates, concern arose in 2024 when two hip joint infections were reported, resulting in an overall infection rate of 2.128. Further review revealed significant environmental monitoring issues, including more than 80 intraoperative pressure drops during a single case. A recent mock survey identified multiple opportunities for improvement in skin prepping, draping, and clipping practices. Additionally, an education gap was noted, with inconsistencies in staff training and expectations, underscoring the need for standardized protocols and enhanced compliance measures.

References and Contact Information



Strategies

- The highly coordinated team implemented:
1. Pre-op clipping with staff education and hard-stop verification
 2. In-OR vacuum clippers when needed
 3. OR traffic or access control
 4. Surgical tray tracking and scanning
 5. Surgical air purification device with environmental sensing and reporting technologies

Outcome

A collaborative approach involving Pre-Op nurses and technicians, OR staff, coordinators, and Infection Prevention specialists was implemented to address identified gaps. The team focused on standardizing practices to enhance surgical site infection prevention, improve workflow efficiency, and strengthen accountability across all stages of care. As a result of these efforts, the process achieved zero surgical site infections within the total joint replacement program following implementation. Additional benefits included improved patient flow and consistent OR readiness throughout the surgical process.