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# True Cost of HAIs and SSIs and Impacts to Your OR and Hospital

An effective sterile processing department (SPD) is a hospital's first line of defense in preventing surgical site infections (SSIs). A reduction in SSIs can improve patient outcomes and reduce costs, as well as increase surgeon satisfaction, improve on-time starts, and achieve better overall efficiencies.

If an SPD isn't functioning at a high level, it can increase the number of patients who acquire infections in the OR from instruments that have not been properly cleaned, disinfected, or sterilized. SSIs, which account for a significant portion of all healthcare-acquired infections (HAIs), can affect the quality of patient outcomes and even result in death.

Statistics overwhelmingly confirm that SSIs can have serious consequences for a hospital and its patients. To prevent SSIs, clinical and executive leaders must increase their focus on processes that reduce the risk of patients contracting SSIs.

## \$20,800

is the excess cost of an SSI per patient. If an MRSA is present, the excess cost of one such infection is

## \$42,000

Part of the excess cost comes from the increased length of stay for a patient with an SSI.

When an SSI occurs, the average length of stay for a patient is an additional

## 11.2 Days<sup>3</sup>

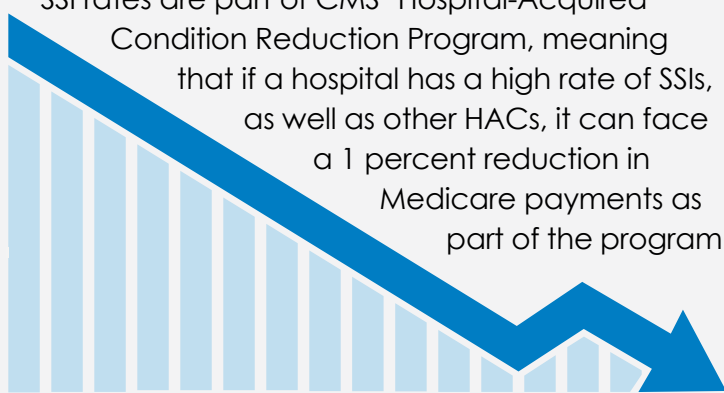
According to the Centers for Disease Control, ~1.7 million HAIs occur in U.S. hospitals each year, resulting in an estimated \$20 billion in healthcare costs and

## 99,000 deaths<sup>1</sup>



Infections can be deadly. When looking at the combined mortality rate for all measured HAIs, SSIs represent 8%.<sup>4</sup>

SSI rates are part of CMS' Hospital-Acquired Condition Reduction Program, meaning that if a hospital has a high rate of SSIs, as well as other HACs, it can face a 1 percent reduction in Medicare payments as part of the program.<sup>2</sup>



## 29%

of the excess costs in U.S. hospitals associated with all HAIs are due to SSIs.<sup>5</sup>

We're aligned to your goals



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31% of all HAIs are due to SSIs. ~157,000 surgical site infections were associated with inpatient surgeries in 2011.<sup>6</sup>

SpecialtyCare seamlessly integrates into sterile processing departments and delivers enhanced performance through a customized, transparent approach to minimize the occurrence of infection, lost instruments, late starts, incomplete trays, and surgeon frustration. We provide the expertise, quality control, and strict regulatory compliance to keep your facility running smoothly, reduce expense, and improve patient outcomes.

722,000 HAIs occurred in acute care hospitals across the U.S. in 2011, according to one survey, resulting in 75,000 patient deaths.<sup>7</sup>

\$9.8 Billion is spent by the U.S. healthcare system annually to treat the five most costly HAIs, with SSIs contributing the most to overall costs.<sup>8</sup>

"Effective sterile processing is crucial for hospitals to reduce infections and provide exceptional patient care, as well as lower treatment costs and maximize reimbursements under value-based care."<sup>9</sup>

1 https://www.cdc.gov/washington/~cdcatWork/pdf/infections.pdf
2 Punke, Heather. "10 Thing for Healthcare CFOs to Know about SSIs." Becker's Hospital Review. July 23, 2015. http://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/10-things-for-healthcare-cfos-to-know-about-ssis.html
3 Becker's Hospital Review. Patient Shield Concepts. May 12, 2015. The True Cost of HAIs. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QyKhmeFeL8
4 Becker's Hospital Review. Patient Shield Companies. May 12, 2015. "The True Cost of HAIs." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QyKhmeFeL8
5 Becker's Hospital Review. Patient Shield Companies. May 12, 2015. "The True Cost of HAIs." https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7QyKhmeFeL8
6 CDC. "Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Event." April 2015. http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/PDFs/pscManual/9pscSSICurrent.pdf
7 CDC. "HAI Data and Statistics." October 25, 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/hai/surveillance/index.html
8 Zimlichman, Eyal, Daniel Henderson, Orly Tamir, Calvin Franz, Peter Song, Cyrus Yamin, Carol Keoshane, Charles Denham, and David Bates. "Health Care-Associated Infections A Meta-analysis of Costs and Financial Impact on the US Health Care System." JAMA Intern Med. 173, no. 22 (September 2, 2013): 2039-046. http://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamainternalmedicine/fullarticle/1733452.
9 Becker's Hospital Review. Infection Control & Clinical Quality. September 1, 2017. "Sterile processing: How hospitals can maintain patient safety amid an ever-changing field." https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/quality/sterile-processing-how-hospitals-can-maintain-patient-safety-amid-an-ever-changing-field.html

SpecialtyCare is your partner for improved outcomes, patient safety, and financial results. We work with thousands of physicians every day, assisting in the delivery of exceptional care. Our expert clinicians are highly trained, certified, and work as integrated members of your team, dedicated to helping make your operating room as efficient as possible. When you want the certainty of clinical excellence, choose SpecialtyCare.

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