Surgical Site Infections (SSI) Top Ten Checklist

1. Develop and follow standardized order sets for each surgical procedure to include antibiotic name, timing of administration, weight-based dose, re-dosing (for longer procedures) and discontinuation.

2. Ensure pre-operative skin antisepsis (e.g., basic soap and water shower; antiseptic agent).

3. Develop standardized peri-operative skin antiseptic practices utilizing the most appropriate skin antiseptic for the type of surgery performed.

4. Develop a standardized procedure to ensure normothermia by warming all surgical patients.

5. Develop and implement protocols to optimize glucose control in all surgical patients.

6. Administer supplemental oxygen during the pre-operative, intra-operative and post-operative periods.

7. Develop a protocol to screen and/or decolonize selected patients with Staphylococcus aureus.

8. Adhere to established guidelines (e.g., HICPAC, AORN) to ensure basic aseptic techniques (e.g., traffic control, attire) are adhered to uniformly.

9. Utilize a Safe Surgery Checklist to drive development of a culture of safety that provides an environment of open and safe communication among the surgical team.

10. Establish a system where surgical site infection data is analyzed and shared.