

Clinical Practice Process Improvement Tool : Operating Theatre Asepsis

Functional Area: _____ Start Date: _____ Overall Auditors: _____

Module: Operating Theatre Asepsis

Date: _____ Auditors: _____

Standard: The risk of infection is minimised through implementation of evidence based practice

Question Set: Operating Theatre Asepsis - Operating Theatre Asepsis

Observation: 1

| | Question | Guidance | Yes | No | N/A | Comment |
|----|--|---|-----|----|-----|---------|
| 1 | Is an Ultra Clean Ventilated (Howarth/Laminar Flow) theatre used for joint replacement surgery? | Check theatre lists. | | | | |
| 2 | Where hair removal is required, have clippers with disposable heads or depilatory creams been used? (71) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 3 | Has hair removal taken place on the day of surgery? (71) | For example in the last 12 hours. | | | | |
| 4 | Has antibiotic prophylaxis been given to patients before any clean or clean contaminated surgery and where the procedure involves insertion of a prosthesis or implant? (71) | Check prescription chart. | | | | |
| 5 | Is hand hygiene performed before the start of the procedure? (44, 68, 71, 90) | Observe practice. Moment 2 - before an aseptic task | | | | |
| 6 | Are single use sterile gloves worn? (20) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 7 | Has the skin at the surgical site been cleaned immediately prior to incision using an antiseptic preparation? (aqueous or alcohol based) (71) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 8 | Has skin preparation been carried out using a non touch sterile technique? (44) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 9 | Has oxygen been administered to ensure a haemoglobin saturation of greater than 95% is maintained during major surgery? | Observe practice or check anaesthetic prescription chart. | | | | |
| 10 | Is normothermia maintained? | Where temperature falls below 36 degrees is it documented what attempts are made to keep patients warm. | | | | |
| 11 | Is the theatre trolley dedicated for surgical procedures? (44) | Observe use of trolley. | | | | |
| 12 | Is the trolley/tray/surface cleaned with detergent and water or detergent wipes and then dried? | Observe whether the trolley/tray/surface is cleaned. | | | | |

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| 13 | Are disposable sterile drapes used? | Observe a procedure. | | | | |
| 14 | If single-use drapes are not used, is there a tracking system in place for cotton re-usable drapes? (113) | Check 5 cotton drapes to ensure they have not been re-processed more than 75 times. Ask a member of staff when a re-processed drape should not be used. | | | | |
| 15 | Is staff aware that drapes are not repositioned following initial set up? (44) | Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure. | | | | |
| 16 | Does staff prepare and `lay up` immediately prior to each case? (44) | Observe and check that sterile trolleys are not laid up in advance of the procedure. | | | | |
| 17 | Do scrubbed personnel remain close to the sterile field? (44) | Observe staff during procedure. | | | | |
| 18 | Do circulatory personnel maintain the sterile field? (44) | Check circulatory staff do not walk between two surgical fields. | | | | |
| 19 | Are sterile medical devices presented to the scrubbed person from the edge of the sterile field and received in such a way as to prevent contamination? (44) | Observe a procedure. | | | | |
| 20 | Does staff ensure that items which have extended over the trolley are not brought back into the sterile field? (44) | Observe a procedure. | | | | |
| 21 | Is the integrity of sterile packs checked prior to use? (44) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 22 | Is the expiry date of sterile packs checked prior to use? (44) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 23 | Are the sterile packs opened using only the corners of the paper, taking care not to touch any of the sterile contents? (44) | Observe a procedure. | | | | |
| 24 | Are items arranged on the sterile field using sterile gloves? (44) | Observe a procedure. | | | | |
| 25 | Is a sterile dressing applied aseptically prior to the patient leaving the operating theatre? (44) | Observe practice. | | | | |
| 26 | Is patient documentation updated following the procedure? (44) | Check notes. | | | | |
| 27 | Are sharps disposed of safely and at the point of use? (20) | Observe practice or ask a member of staff to describe procedure. Also check that clean trays/bins are available and are compatible with the bins in use. | | | | |

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| 28 | Is hand hygiene performed after removal of personal protective equipment? (20, 90) | Observe practice. Moment 3 - after body fluid exposure risk | | | | |

Question Set Comments/Recommendations for Operating Theatre Asepsis - Operating Theatre Asepsis

- 20 Pratt RJ, Pellowe C, Wilson JA, Loveday HP, Harper PJ, Jones SRLJ, McDougall CM, Wilcox MH. (2007) Epic2: National Evidence Based Guidelines for preventing Healthcare-Associated Infection in NHS Hospitals in England. Journal of Hospital Infection. 65 (1) Supplement 1.
- 44 AfPP Standards and Recommendations for Safe Perioperative Practice. Association for Perioperative Practice, Harrogate 2007
- 68 AAGBI (2008) Infection control in anaesthesia AAGBI Safety Guideline: Infection Control in Anaesthesia. Anaesthesia, 63;1027-1036
- 71 National Institute of Clinical Excellence (2008) Surgical Site Infection: prevention and treatment of surgical site infection. National Institute of Clinical Excellence, Issue 3
- 90 World Health Organisation (2009) Guidelines on hand hygiene in health care. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organisation
- 113 Association for Perioperative Practice (2008) Standards and Recommendations for Surgery in Primary Care. Association for Perioperative Practice, Harrogate