



Journey to Improvement in Surgical Care

“No Place for Cookbooks in Surgical Practice”

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Objectives

Upon completion the participant will be able to:

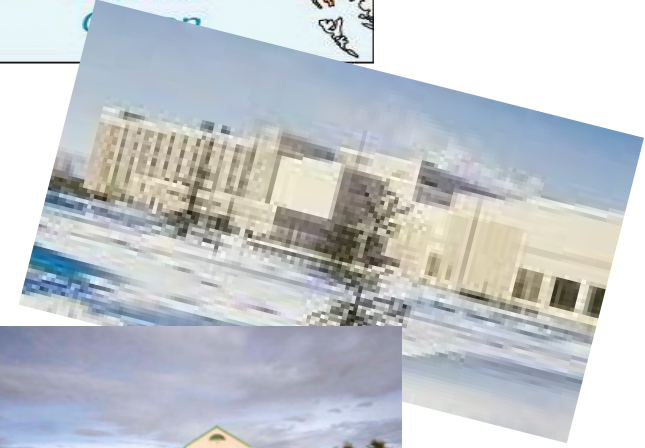
- √ **Verbalize approaches one hospital used to gain compliance to evidence based methods for practice of safe surgery and prevention of SSI's**

- √ **Articulate measures that may be used to determine changes in practice resulting in improvement in patient care**



Where the journey begins...


Tertiary Acute Care-152 licensed acute beds
90 bed LTC
Located in the heart of Alaska's Interior
358 road miles north of Anchorage- location of next hospital
2nd largest city in Alaska
Surgery Types
Surgeons





Embarking on our journey..

Rationale for change.....

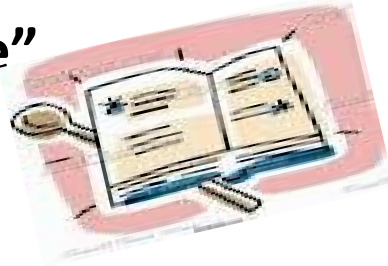
- **Patient Safety, patient safety, patient safety**
- **Desire to provide excellent care for our community**
- **Reported surgical infections**
- **Evidence based information**  **positive outcomes**
- **External reporting and public information**



Obstacles to a smooth journey...

Barrier:

- Perception....“Cookbook medicine”



- “It will never happen to me attitude”
- Staff perception of “this is just another task that takes time”



Challenge:

- Physician involvement and commitment to development of process-checklist formation education and use
- Researching medical records, event reports, etc. for data
- Gaining staff commitment-development, implementation and use



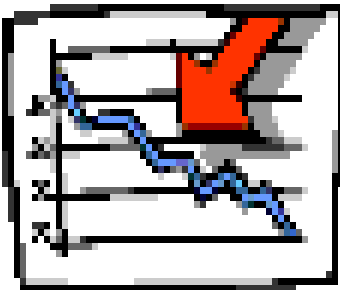
Removing the obstacles...

- **Engagement of leadership**...medical staff, nursing and general administration
- **Data, data, data**...event/near miss data, infection data, evidenced based material, stories and articles
- **Examples**... work of those who have taken this journey
- **Teamwork**
- **Communicate**, communicate, communicate

Mapping the journey...



- Team determined initial criteria of measurement
- Measures have evolved over time....
 - ✓ Initially-rate of compliance of completing checklist
 - ✓ then...SCIP
 - ✓ 2011- Scorecard for Safe Surgery





As You start this journey-remember.....

Key:

- Cooperation
- Communication
- Compliance

How:

- Identification and involvement of stakeholders-teams and individual contacts
- One: one, team meetings, newsletters, posters, pre-printed order sets, pre and post op checklists
- 10 audits a month; twice monthly “how are we doing and what can we do” team meetings; review of data with leadership; posters in strategic places-data and reminders of process,



Our Journey is not complete....

- **Summary....nor will the journey ever be complete as long as we care for our community....**
- **Next Tests of Change (TOC)**

“Because safety in a human system is a team endeavor, everyone must own it, or safety will remain an accidental attribute.” –

Charles R. Denham, MD.



Help during the journey...

- IHI Surgical Trigger Tool. Available at:
<http://www.ihl.org/IHI/Topics/PatientSafety/SafetyGeneral/Tools/SurgicalTriggerTool.htm>
- WHO Guidelines for Safe Surgery 2009, World Alliance for Patient Safety, World Health Organization, Retrieved from: <http://www.who.int/patientsafety/safesurgery>
- Canadian Patient Safety Institute, Surgical Safety Checklist How to Guide. Retrieved from: www.safesurgerysaveslives.ca