

**PREPARATION FOR TOTAL JOINT SURGERY:
PATIENT EDUCATION AND DOCUMENTATION TOOLS FOR HOME**

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Our hospital experienced a significant rise in the number of post operative total hip replacement infections in 2012. We instituted several changes to our preoperative preparation. Patients now are asked to use Mupirocin and chlorhexidine cleansing wipes at home prior to admission. These tasks seemed overwhelming and difficult for patients to manage.

OBJECTIVES OF PROJECT:

- To educate total joint patients on our surgical site infection prevention practices.
- To support their compliance with home preparation.

PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION:

- Teaching and documentation tools were given to patients in pre-admission testing.
 - Surgical Site Infections FAQs sheet
 - Chlorhexidine cleansing wipe instructions which included:
 - A diagram which identified specific areas to be cleansed.
 - Step by step instructions for proper usage of cleansing wipes for each of the two days.
 - A chart checklist to document the Mupirocin five day applications and the two day chlorhexidine cleansing. Each activity is outlined with date and time of day to complete. Patients are instructed to check off each activity as they complete it and to bring this chart to hospital the day of surgery.

STATEMENT OF SUCCESSFUL PRACTICE:

In 2012 there were seven total hip replacement infections, in 2014 through June we experienced only one infection. Our infection rate has decreased but we know the patient understanding of at home instructions is evident with their documentation on checklist. Their compliance is recorded by their completion of the checklist.

IMPLICATIONS FOR ADVANCING THE PRACTICE OF PERIANESTHESIA NURSING:

We must continue to identifying the educational needs of our pre-operative patients. At home preparation for surgery of all types is complex and confusing. For the orthopedic patient, a surgical site infection can impact their post op recovery and success with regards to their implant/hardware. Their understanding and compliance will achieve better surgical outcomes. Educational tools for each specific surgery preparation will assist them with compliance.