

## REASON WHY?

Long bone infections after surgery can cause serious complications for patients, including longer hospital stays, more operations, and even long-term disability. Our infection rates were above the national average, especially in certain theatres, highlighting the need for urgent action to protect patient safety and improve outcomes.

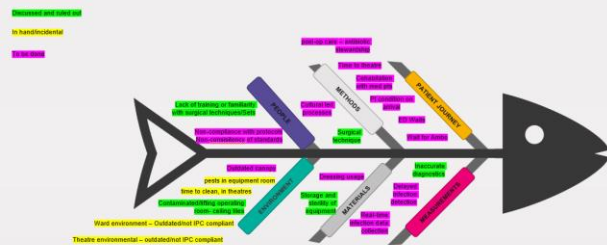


To reduce the infection rate for long bone infections to 1% by 30th June 2025.

## PLAN

A review was undertaken to understand the current influences impacting infection rates within T&O. A fish bone diagram was used to highlight these and theme into categories for improvement.

### Increased T&O SSI's – potential influences



The initial plan was to:

- Focus on improving cleaning and infection control in theatres and wards, especially Theatre 5.
- Increase cleaning resources and update cleaning schedules.
- Audit surgical techniques, equipment, and antibiotic use.

## DO

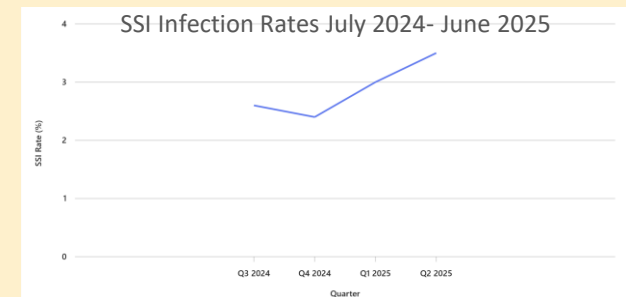
Review of:

- Surgical technique – no issues identified, different consultants, different but verified techniques – so pattern identified
- Lack of training or familiarity with surgical techniques/sets – established trauma theatre staff, no patterns identified, no staff training identified.
- Contaminated/lifting ceiling tiles – rectified in theatres, fix for corridor on 7th June.
- Sterility of storage room sterile equipment – all stored sets re-sterilised.
- Review of cleaning protocols – increased UV cleaning, dedicated cleaner.

## STUDY

The surgical site infection (SSI) rate for Repair of Neck of Femur at Royal Shrewsbury Hospital has not shown consistent improvement over the past four quarters. The rates have fluctuated and are currently above the national benchmark (0.8%).

The trend is upward, with the most recent quarter (Q2 2025) being the highest in the past year. This suggests that current infection control measures are not yet delivering the desired reduction in infection rates. Continued focus opportunities for improvement need to be discussed.



## ACT

- Review root cause analysis to identify specific factors contributing to the rise in SSI rates.
- Reinforce infection prevention protocols and ensure consistent compliance across all surgical teams.
- Provide targeted training and feedback to staff based on recent infection data.
- Engage multidisciplinary teams to review and update SSI reduction strategies.