



Top 10 SCIP Tips

1 Understand why SCIP is important! Surgical complications, many of them caused by error or by not following evidence-based guidelines, account for up to 22 percent of preventable deaths among patients. Participation in SCIP prevents complications from happening and saves lives.

2 Get a team together. Effectively implementing SCIP takes a multi-disciplinary team composed of surgeons, OR nurses, anesthesiologists and others who participate in your surgical processes.

3 Examine your policies and protocols for delivery of care. Do they meet evidence-based guidelines? Are they fully and effectively implemented? Does your hospital have policies related to surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis? Is patient assessment for risk of venous thromboembolism (VTE - deep vein thrombosis and pulmonary embolism) and use of appropriate forms of VTE prophylaxis a part of your perioperative routine?

4 An educated staff will get the best results. For the latest tools, interventions, and other information, visit www.medqic.org/scip.

5 Remove all razors and replace them with clippers. Surgical infections are significantly reduced when patients are prepped for surgery with clipping instead of shaving.

6 Work with your SCIP team to develop pre-printed protocols for antibiotic selection.

7 Develop a policy that assigns responsibility for giving antibiotics within one hour of incision. Research shows that surgical infections significantly decrease when antibiotics are given within one hour before incision.

8 Modify OR forms to provide 'triggers' for appropriate care. For example, ensure implementation of insulin protocols for patients undergoing cardiac surgery who develop hyperglycemia, and maintain perioperative normothermia in patients having general abdominal colorectal surgery.

9 Identify SCIP physician champions in your hospital who can help educate others about the SCIP measures and successful implementation.

10 Encourage your hospital leadership to identify measures and results that should be reported regularly to the hospital board of directors. Best practice studies show that hospitals that formally report results to the board are more successful in their efforts.

(Courtesy of Hospital Interventions QIOSC, Oklahoma Foundation for Medical Quality, 2006.)