

FAQs: NHSN SSI Rebaseline

This document contains frequently asked questions regarding Surgical Site Infections (SSI) and the 2015 standardized infection ratio (SIR) baseline. CDC is updating the baseline to continue driving the progress of preventing HAIs. The current risk adjustment methods and original baselines which vary by HAI type and/or healthcare facility type, have been updated using data entered into NHSN in 2015 as the source of aggregate data. For more information about the rebaseline, please visit: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/2015rebaseline>.

With the 2015 rebaseline, will SSIs reported as “Present at time of Surgery” (PATOS) be excluded from the SSI SIRs?

Yes; the SSI SIRs will exclude SSIs reported as PATOS, including the Complex 30-day SSI SIR used for CMS Quality Reporting Programs. PATOS events should continue to be reported to NHSN as part of the SSI Surveillance protocol.

Will the Complex 30-day SSI SIR model continue to use only the American Society of Anesthesiologists (ASA) score and Age to risk adjust the SIR?

No; in addition to ASA and Age, an updated SIR model will include added risk factors. CDC will publish the complete list of risk factors when finalized.

For the SSI SIR, will the universal exclusion criteria still apply with the 2015 rebaseline?

Yes; the universal exclusion criteria will still apply to all three SSI SIR models. A list of the exclusion criteria will be published on the rebaseline website when NHSN is updated to include the 2015 baselines.

Will the procedure duration cutoff points stay the same?

No; the procedure duration cutoff points (identified as high outlier procedure durations) have changed. A new list of the procedure duration cutoff points will be available on the rebaseline website when NHSN is updated to include the 2015 baselines.

Are there any planned additions to the reports for the Procedure-associated Module?

Yes; the “All SSI” and “Complex A/R SSI” Models and SIR reports will separate pediatrics from adults. In addition, NHSN will implement new SSI indicator variables to help facilities and groups identify which events are included in the SIR numerators.

When will CDC complete the 2015 rebaseline and implement it in the application?

The new SIRs and risk adjustments will be incorporated into NHSN application in January 2017.

Where can I find more information?

Additional information can be found on CDC’s NHSN website at <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/2015rebaseline>. Other resources include NHSN newsletters from March 2016 and December 2015.

- March 2016: <http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-nl-march-2016.pdf>
- December 2015: http://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/newsletters/nhsn-newsletter_dec-2015_final.pdf

Questions can be directed to nhsn@cdc.gov.