

Every touch point matters.

There are many opportunities through the patient's surgical journey to make small changes that can make a big difference to clinical outcomes. We have a wide range of solutions to support clinicians in their mission to protect patients from preventable surgical site infections.

Click [Learn more](#) ▶ to identify the opportunity at each stage.



Enhance patient recovery through optimum preparation, to ensure the best possible outcome.



Guidelines recommend providing the patient with relevant information in advance of their surgery.¹
All patients undergoing elective surgery should have a preoperative assessment to stratify risk of SSI/wound breakdown to determine the correct wound dressing or therapy.¹⁹
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Surgical site infections have been attributed to incompletely processed instruments.² 3M offers four opportunities to provide assurance, including equipment monitoring, load monitoring, internal and external pack monitoring.
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Pre-operative showering, hair removal and nasal decolonization are recommended as part of the patient preparation process.^{1,3,4,5}
3M has a range of surgical clippers with single use blades, which are recommended if hair has to be removed.^{1,3-9}
[Learn more](#) ▶



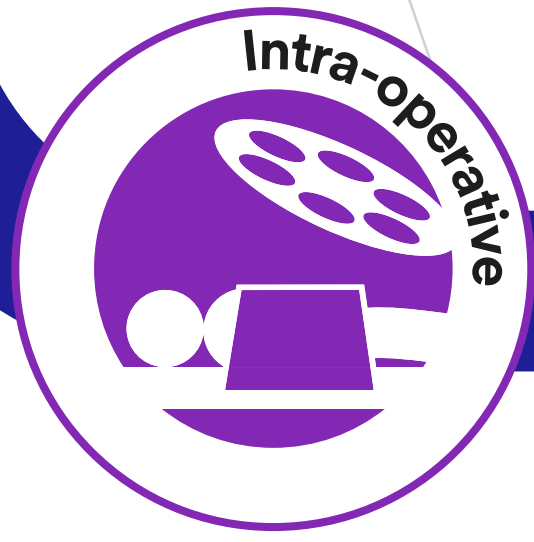
Organisms on the skin gain access to the bloodstream via migration along the external surface of the catheter or catheter hub; both important routes of catheter-related bloodstream infections.¹⁸
3M™ Tegaderm™ IV Securement Solutions help to ensure safe, secure vascular access and reduce infection risk at all access points.
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Guidelines recommend pre-warming before induction of anaesthesia.¹⁰⁻¹⁷
3M™ Bair Hugger™ Gowns and Blankets provide active warming to the periphery to reduce the effects of redistribution temperature drop and therefore the risk of perioperative hypothermia.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Measure core temperature before induction ensuring patient temperature is above 36°C before surgery.¹⁰⁻¹⁵
Just one 3M™ Bair Hugger™ Temperature Monitoring Sensor can accurately and continuously monitor the patient's temperature throughout the perioperative period.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Solutions which support essential elements of care throughout the surgical procedure.



Ensure a sterile field^{1,3} with a selection of 3M surgical drapes, gowns, masks and respirators for every clinical situation.
OR staff can complete final checks on instrument sterility using a 3M™ Comply™ SteriGage™ Chemical Indicator.
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Disinfect skin using an alcohol-based antiseptic solution.^{1,3,4,5,6,7,9} Guidelines recommend if an incise drape is used, it should be iodophor impregnated.^{1,3}
Create a chemical and physical barrier around the incision site with a 3M™ Ioban™ 2 Antimicrobial Incise Drape to reduce skin recolonisation and therefore the risk of SSI.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Continue to follow guidelines by actively warming the patient intra-operatively¹ using 3M Bair Hugger forced air warming blankets and gowns to maintain normothermia during surgery.¹
Prevent the drop in core temperature caused by the infusion of cold fluids by using the 3M™ Ranger™ Blood and Fluid Warming System to warm fluids over 500ml.^{10-13,16}
[Learn more](#) ▶



Close, protect and cover with 3M's postoperative care system. Surgical incisions should be covered with an appropriate sterile dressing at the end of the operation.^{1,3,6}
3M™ Tegaderm™ Absorbent Clear Acrylic Dressings are suitable for most surgical incisions and can be kept in place until the wound is healed if no complications.
PREVENA™ Incision Management System is a negative pressure therapy recommended for high risk patients and surgical procedures.^{4,9}
[Learn more](#) ▶



Continue to accurately monitor patient core temperature using the 3M™ Bair Hugger™ Temperature Monitoring System to ensure normothermia is being maintained.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Safe care following surgery, completing the surgical journey and preparing for onward care.



Guidelines state that a patient should not be discharged from recovery until they are 36°C or above.^{10-13,15}
If required, continue to warm with a Bair Hugger blanket or gown. Use the Bair Hugger temperature monitoring system to check the patient is normothermic before discharge.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Dressing should not be removed until 48 hours post-op, unless there is a reason to inspect the wound.^{1,3,5,6}
With 3M Tegaderm Absorbent Clear Acrylic Dressings there is no need to remove the dressing to observe the surgical wound, making it easier to identify early signs of infection, dehiscence or exudate levels. Flexible, waterproof barrier promotes early showering and return to daily activities.
For high risk patients and incisions, applying PREVENA Incision Management System for up to 7 days helps to promote healing by holding the incision edges together, drawing fluid and exudate out of the wound, reducing oedema and stimulating perfusion.
[Learn more](#) ▶



Guidelines state that patients and carers should be given information and advice about how to recognise a surgical site infection and who to contact if they are concerned.¹
Checking the wound for these signs is important; Tegaderm absorbent clear acrylic dressings enable this without removal of the dressing and PREVENA Incision Management System provides visibility of exudate via its fluid collection canister.
[Learn more](#) ▶

Download the SSI Risk Reduction Module to learn more about the evidence, guidelines and solutions you need to reduce the risk of SSIs for your patients or contact a 3M representative.

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19 AHSN Network (2019) National wound care strategy programme 2018/19 <https://www.ahsnetwork.com/about-us/clinical-health-care-networks/national-programmes-priorities/national-wound-care-strategy-programme>; accessed 30 March 2020.