

# May 2022 Education

Clinical Practice Disease-Specific Guidelines  
Non-Healing Surgical Wound



# Agenda

## **SerenaGroup Clinical Guidelines Non-Healing Surgical Wound**

- Definition
- Cause
- Assessment
- Diagnosis
- Treatment
- Risk Factors
- Dressing Options
- Ordering Tests
- Appropriate Follow-Up
- Codes Related
- Reference
- Quiz



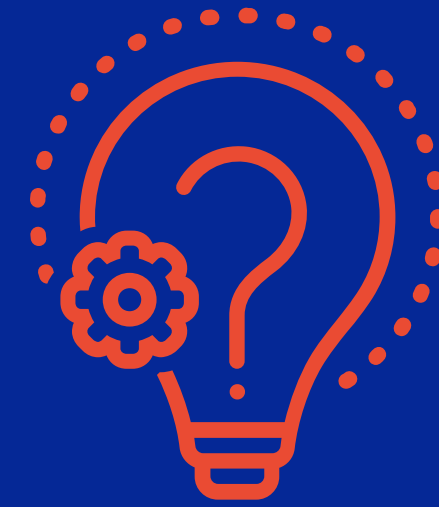
# Definition



Non-healing surgical wounds include post-operative incisional dehiscence, surgical site infection and post-operative incisions left open to heal by secondary intention.



# Cause



Factors that may contribute to non-healing surgical wounds:

- Infection
- Pre-existing medical issues
- Uncontrolled Diabetes
- Disorders of immunosuppression
- Tobacco use
- Advanced age
- Malnutrition
- Obesity
- Pre-and-post operative anemia
- Renal disease
- Chronic steroid use
- Radiation therapy or chemotherapy
- Break in surgical technique
- Prolonged operative time





# Assessment



Based on the risk of contamination and infection, non-healing surgical wounds are classified into four categories:

- **Clean wounds:** These wounds show no sign of infection or inflammation, and risk of infection is usually less than 2%. They often involve skin, eyes, or the vascular system; the gastrointestinal tract is not entered. These wounds are closed by primary intention.
- **Clean-contaminated wounds:** These wounds also show no outward signs of infection. The bowel is entered in a controlled fashion. This category also includes procedures in which there is a minor break in aseptic technique. The risk of developing a surgical site infection (SSI) with this type of wound is usually less than 10%.



# Assessment



**Contaminated wounds:** Open wounds in which there is uncontrolled bowel spillage, infection is present or there is a major break in aseptic technique. These wounds may be left open. The risk of infection with this type of wound is approximately 20-25%.

**Dirty-contaminated wounds:** wounds in which an infection is present at the time of surgery. These wounds are left open. The risk of developing an SSI with this type of wound is high at nearly 40%.

In wounds that contain a foreign body, the foreign material must be removed.



# Diagnosis



Wounds can dehisce without surgical site infection (SSI). The diagnosis of SSI is made using clinical signs and symptoms, cultures, and laboratory testing.



# Treatment



The treatment of surgical wounds is based on the location and size of the wound. 1

- Refer to [The Practice of Wound Care](#) for standard wound care.
- There is good evidence for the use of negative pressure wound therapy.
- Consider nutritional supplementation.





# Risk Factors



- See cause on Treatment (previous slide)



# Dressing Options



- Refer to SerenaGroup® Formulary
- For inpatients consider instillation negative pressure wound therapy.



# Order Tests



- CBC
- Culture if SSI is suspected and untreated
- Fluorescence imaging



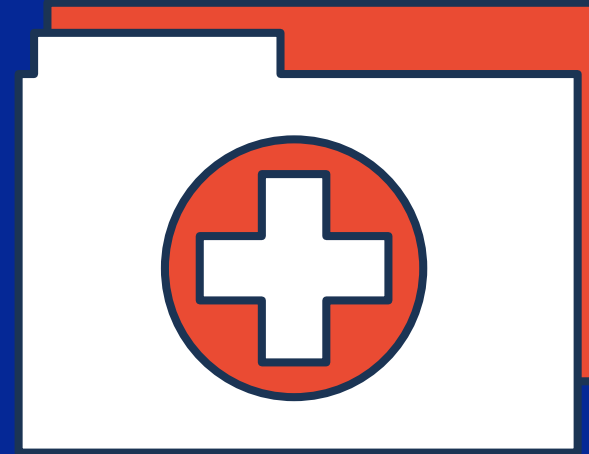
# Follow-up



Weekly follow-up visits until ulcer is healed.



# Codes Related



- S08.111S-S08.89XS, S09.311S-S09.313S, S28.1XXS-S29.002S, S38.211S-S39.023S, T81.30XS-T81.89XS, T87.41-T87.89





# Reference

Berrios-Torres SI, Umscheid CA, Bratzler DW, et al. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Guideline for the Prevention of Surgical Site Infection, 2017. *JAMA Surg.* 2017;152(8):784–791.  
doi:<https://doi.org/10.1001/jamasurg.2017.0904>



# QUIZ TIME

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

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# Question 1

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Non-healing surgical wounds include post-operative incisional dehiscence, surgical site infection and post-operative incisions left open to heal by secondary intention.

**FALSE**

**TRUE**



# Answer 1

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Non-healing surgical wounds include post-operative incisional dehiscence, surgical site infection and post-operative incisions left open to heal by secondary intention.



# Question 2

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Based on the risk of contamination and infection, non-healing surgical wounds are classified into six categories.

**FALSE**

**TRUE**





# Answer 2

## Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Based on the risk of contamination and infection, non-healing surgical wounds are classified into **six** categories.

four

- Clean wounds
- Clean-contaminated wounds
- Contaminated wounds
- Dirty-contaminated wounds

**FALSE**



# Question 3

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Wounds cannot dehisce without surgical site infection (SSI).

**FALSE**

**TRUE**



# Answer 3

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Wounds **cannot** dehiscence without surgical site infection (SSI).

can

**FALSE**



# Question 4

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Tests that should be ordered are CBC, culture if SSI is suspected and untreated and fluorescence imaging.

**FALSE**

**TRUE**



# Answer 4

Non-Healing Surgical Wound

Tests that should be ordered are CBC, culture if SSI is suspected and untreated and fluorescence imaging.





# Reference

To view the SerenaGroup Clinical Practice Disease-Specific Guidelines -- go to [www.serenagroupinc.com](http://www.serenagroupinc.com) in the Member's Portal



## **Evidence-Based Wound Care Practice Guidelines**

2nd Edition

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# Thank you!

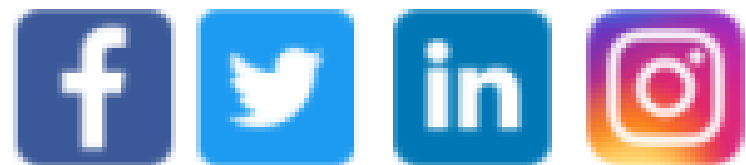
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