

2025 NHSN HYST SSI Medical Record Abstraction Tool (MRAT) Instructions

V1.0 Updated March 2026 – for
validating 2025 data



CDC VI | 3/26/26

Section 1. Patient and Medical Record Identifiers

Complete patient identifiers and demographics. Select all NHSN operative procedures performed during index HYST procedure. Document ICD-10-PCS and/or CPT Codes for index HYST procedure.

Section 2. NHSN Operative Procedure Criteria

HYST procedure is included in the ICD-10-PCS and/or CPT NHSN operative procedure code mapping and is performed in an O.R./equivalent where at least one (1) incision was made through skin/mucous membrane (including laparoscopic approach), or entry is through an existing incision (such as an incision that was left open during a prior operative procedure).

Notes:

- **NHSN Inpatient Operative Procedure:** An NHSN operative procedure performed on a patient whose date of admission to the healthcare facility and the date of discharge are different calendar days.
- “O.R. equivalent” may include C-section room, interventional radiology room, or cardiac catheterization lab meeting FGI or AIA criteria. (See NHSN PSC Manual SSI Chapter 9 for details.)

Section 3. Document HYST Procedure Risk-Adjustment Variables in Medical Record at Time of Procedure for Comparison to NHSN

- ASA Physical Status (ASA Score):
 - » Assessment by the anesthesiologist of the patient’s preoperative physical condition using the American Society of Anesthesiologists’ (ASA) Physical Status Classification System. Patients are assigned an ASA score of 1-6 at time of surgery. Patients with an ASA score of 1-5 are eligible for NHSN SSI surveillance. Patients that are assigned an ASA score of 6 (a declared brain-dead patient whose organs are being removed for donor purposes) are **not** eligible for NHSN SSI surveillance
- General Anesthesia:
 - » The administration of drugs or gases that enter the general circulation and affect the central nervous system to render the patient pain free, amnesic, unconscious, and often paralyzed with relaxed muscles. This does not include conscious sedation
- Scope:
 - » An instrument used to reach and visualize the site of the operative procedure. In the context of an NHSN operative procedure, use of a scope involves creation of several small incisions to perform or assist in the performance of an operation rather than use of a traditional larger incision (specifically, open approach). If a procedure is coded as **open** and **scope**, then the procedure should be reported to NHSN as **Scope = NO**. The open designation is considered a higher risk

procedure. For information related to how ICD-10-PCS and CPT codes can be helpful in answering the scope question see NHSN PSC Manual SSI Chapter 9 for details

- **Emergency:**
 - » A procedure that is documented per the facility's protocol to be an Emergency or Urgent procedure
- **Trauma:**
 - » Blunt or penetrating injury occurring prior to the start of the procedure. Note: Complex trauma cases may require multiple trips to the OR during the same admission to repair the initial trauma. In such cases, trauma = Yes
- **Weight:**
 - » The patient's most recent weight documented in the medical record in pounds (lbs) or kilograms (kg) prior to otherwise closest to the procedure
- **Wound Class:**
 - » Wound class is an assessment of the degree of contamination of a surgical wound at the time of the surgical procedure.
 - » Wound class should be assigned by a person involved in the surgical procedure (for example, surgeon, circulating nurse, etc.) based on the wound class schema that is adopted within each organization
 - » The four wound classes available for HYST include:
 - **Clean (C), Clean-Contaminated (CC), Contaminated (CO), or Dirty or Infected (D)**
- **Duration of operative procedure:**
 - » The interval in hours and minutes between the Procedure/Surgery Start Time and the Procedure/Surgery Finish Time, as defined by the Association of Anesthesia Clinical Directors (AACD).
 - Procedure/Surgery start time (PST) is when the procedure is begun (for example, incision for a surgical procedure).
 - Procedure/Surgery finish time (PF) is when all instruments and sponge counts are completed and verified, post-op x-rays in OR are done, all dressings and drains are secured, and physicians/surgeons have completed all procedure-related activities on the patient.
 - » If patient goes to OR again and another procedure is performed through the same incision or into the same surgical space within 24 hours of the original procedure finish time and during the same admission, count as only one procedure (report one Denominator for Procedure form for the original procedure) combining the durations for both procedures and using the higher of the wound class and ASA scores. Assign the surgical wound closure technique that applies when the patient leaves the OR from the first operative procedure (see NHSN PSC Manual SSI Chapter 9 for details -Denominator Reporting Instruction #7).

- Total number of beds:
 - » Record the number of beds set up and staffed for the last full calendar year for the bed types listed below. If any bed type is new or has not been available long enough to have a full calendar years' worth of data record the number of beds used for the majority (six months or greater) of the survey year. For definitions of CDC location types, see CDC Locations and Descriptions chapter.
 - Enter the number of beds in locations designated as intensive care units (ICUs) in the facility. This includes all adult, pediatric, and neonatal levels II/III and III.
 - Enter the number of beds set up and staffed in all other inpatient locations used for overnight stay patients in this hospital. This includes all inpatient beds in the facility, and not just those that are subject to NHSN surveillance.
- Facility teaching hospital affiliation:
 - » Is your hospital a teaching hospital for physicians and/or physicians in training?
 - If a teaching hospital, select the type from the options listed: (Note: There is no minimum requirement for the number of students in training to meet these definitions.)
 - Major: Facility trains medical students and/or nursing students, and post-graduate residents.
 - Graduate: Facility trains only post-graduate medical (MD/DO only) residents/fellows
 - Undergraduate: Facility trains current (undergraduate) medical students and/or nursing students.
 - Select the highest level that your facility meets
- Sex
 - » Select Female or Male
- Oncology hospital
 - » Select 'Yes' if oncology hospital
 - » Select 'No' if not oncology hospital
 - » Based on NHSN enrollment as HOSP-ONC

Section 4. Document Subsequent Surgery/Invasive Procedure During HYST SSI Surveillance Period

Was a subsequent surgery performed through the same incision or into the same surgical space beyond 24 hours after the original procedure finish time but within the 30-day SSI surveillance period following the original procedure, OR was the surgical site otherwise entered or manipulated invasively (see NHSN PSC Manual SSI Chapter 9, – SSI Event Reporting Instruction #10 for details) at any time during the 30-day SSI surveillance period [Date of procedure=Day 1]?

Table 1. SSI Definition Criteria

Using the NHSN SSI Definitions criteria below, determine which depth of SSI criteria were met, if any, and the date of SSI event. For an SSI, the Date of Event (DOE) is the date when the first element used to meet the SSI infection criterion occurs for the first time during the SSI surveillance period. The DOE must fall within the SSI surveillance period to meet SSI criteria.

Note: Available criteria for SSI may progress (for example, superficial incisional to deep incisional); review the entire SSI event and record the **DEEPEST** level of SSI during the SSI surveillance period. Enter the outcome in Section 5a and complete the rest of the section as appropriate.

NHSN SSI Definitions: Use checklist to establish elements met:

Superficial Incisional HYST SSI	Deep incisional HYST SSI	Organ/Space HYST SSI
<input type="checkbox"/> Date of event occurs within 30 days following the HYST procedure (where day 1 = the procedure date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Date of event occurs within 30 days following the HYST procedure (where day 1 = the procedure date)	<input type="checkbox"/> Date of event occurs within 30 days following the HYST procedure (where day 1 = the procedure date)
AND	AND	AND
<input type="checkbox"/> Involves only skin and/or subcutaneous tissue of the incision	<input type="checkbox"/> Involves deep soft tissues (for example, fascia and/or muscle layers) of the incision	<input type="checkbox"/> Involves any part of the body deeper than the fascial/muscle layers that is opened or manipulated during the operative procedure
AND	AND	AND
<input type="checkbox"/> At least one of the boxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ purulent drainage from superficial incision 	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one of the boxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ purulent drainage from deep incision 	<input type="checkbox"/> At least one of the boxes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ purulent drainage from a drain placed into the organ/space (for example, closed suction drainage system, open drain, T-tube drain, CT guided drainage)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ organism(s) identified from an aseptically-obtained specimen from the superficial incision or subcutaneous tissue by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ organism(s) are identified from fluid or tissue in the organ/space by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ surgeon, physician** or physician designee deliberately opened superficial incision <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ culture or non-culture-based testing is <u>not</u> performed <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ patient has at least one of the following signs or symptoms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » localized pain or tenderness » localized swelling » erythema » heat 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ a deep incision that is deliberately opened*, or aspirated by a surgeon, physician** or physician designee or spontaneously dehisces. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ organism(s) identified from the deep soft tissues of the incision by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment <p>OR</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method is <u>not</u> performed. A culture or non-culture-based test from the deep soft tissues of the incision that has a negative finding does not meet this criterion. <p>AND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ patient has at least one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fever (>38.0°C) localized pain or tenderness 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ diagnosis of superficial incisional SSI by a physician**, or physician designee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ abscess or other evidence of infection involving the deep incision detected on (at least one of) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gross anatomical exam*** » Histopathologic examination » Imaging test 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ abscess or other evidence of infection involving the organ/space detected on (at least one of) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Gross anatomical exam*** » Histopathologic examination » Imaging test evidence definitive or equivocal for infection <p>AND</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Meets at least one criterion for a specific organ/space infection site; specifically for HYST: IAB, OREP, or VCUF. Document using NHSN Checklist.</p>

Note: *Excludes any known multi-part/multi-phase procedures that occur over more than one operative episode [during the same admission] that is documented in the medical record by a surgeon prior to first phase of the procedure. **The term physician for the purpose of application of the NHSN SSI criteria may be interpreted to mean a surgeon, infectious disease physician, emergency physician, other physician on the case, or physician's designee (nurse practitioner or physician's assistant). ***Definition of terms are provided in Key Terms (NHSN General Key Terms Chapter 16) and Frequently Asked Questions, which can be accessed at https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/pdfs/pscmanual/16psckeyterms_current.pdf and <https://www.cdc.gov/nhsn/faqs/faq-index.html>

Reporting Notes:

- Do not report stitch abscess, localized stab wound, pin site infection, or cellulitis alone (see NHSN PSC Manual SSI Chapter 9 for full details).

- The type of SSI (SI, DI, or O/S) reported and the date of event assign must reflect the deepest tissue level where SSI criteria are met during the SSI surveillance period.

- If a patient has evidence of an infection during the index operative procedure, subsequent infection meeting NHSN SSI criteria is an SSI for NHSN reporting purposes. (See PATOS reporting instruction below).

5. Outcome of 2025 HYST SSI Validation

5(A): Select **Outcome** (a), (b), or (c). If (b) is selected, define depth, date of SSI event, and determine which point during the surveillance period the SSI was identified.

5(B): **Infection present at time of surgery (PATOS)**: PATOS is a YES/NO field on the SSI event form. PATOS denotes that there is evidence of infection visualized (seen) during the surgical procedure to which the subsequent SSI is attributed. The evidence of infection must be noted intraoperatively and documented within the narrative portion of the operative note or report of surgery to be eligible for PATOS (pre/post op diagnoses, 'indication for surgery', and other headings routinely included in an operative note are not eligible with answering PATOS).

6. Attribution of SSI to the Procedure

Note to validator: Each NHSN operative procedure sets a surveillance period. If a patient returns to the OR for an NHSN operative procedure and the same surgical site is entered, the surveillance period for the prior NHSN operative procedure ends and a new SSI surveillance period begins.

If within the surveillance period following an NHSN operative procedure a non-NHSN operative procedure is performed, and all three tissue levels are entered, the SSI surveillance period for the NHSN operative procedure ends. If all three tissue levels are not entered, the SSI surveillance period continues for the tissue levels not entered during the non-NHSN operative procedure.

For details on SSI following invasive manipulation or accession of the operative site, refer to NHSN PSC Manual SSI Event Chapter 9 (SSI Event Reporting Instruction #10).

In the context of multiple concurrent NHSN Operative Procedures through the same incision/laparoscopic sites, the SSI is attributed to the procedure that is thought to be associated with the infection and if procedure attribution is not clear, as is often the case when the infection is an incisional SSI, then NHSN guidance is to refer to SSI Event Reporting Instruction #9 and use the NHSN Principal Operative Procedure Category Selection List (Table 4*) to select the operative procedure to which the SSI should be attributed. For organ/space SSIs, the specific location of infection should be examined for attribution. If the facility has documentation to support SSI attribution should go to a specific procedure (for example, an abscess is completely localized to the hysterectomy bed following COLO and HYST), then the facility can make the determination to assign the SSI event to the procedure they feel indicated. Otherwise, if the documentation is not clear, then NHSN guidance is to refer SSI Event Reporting Instruction #9. (*See Table 4 below)

*NHSN Principal Operative Procedure Category Selection List, from NHSN SSI Chapter 9, Table 4.		
Priori	Categor	Abdominal Operative Procedures
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1	LTP	Liver transplant
2	COLO	Colon surgery
3	BILI	Bile duct, liver, or pancreatic surgery
4	SB	Small bowel surgery
5	REC	Rectal surgery
6	KTP	Kidney transplant
7	GAST	Gastric surgery
8	AAA	Abdominal aortic aneurysm repair
9	HYST	Abdominal hysterectomy
10	CSEC	Cesarean section
11	XLAP	Laparotomy
12	APPY	Appendix surgery
13	HER	Herniorrhaphy
14	NEPH	Kidney surgery
15	VHYS	Vaginal hysterectomy
16	SPLE	Spleen surgery
17	CHOL	Gall bladder surgery
18	OVRY	Ovarian surgery

7. Classify the outcome results as Correctly Classified, Over-reported HAI or Underreported HAI.

Select the reason from the table the SSI was classified incorrectly. Provide details as necessary for clarification.

Examples of reasons for misreporting:

- Symptoms were not documented or recognized in the procedure surveillance period
- Organ/space site-specific criteria were not met or applied inappropriately
- SSI was attributed to the wrong procedure
- Incorrect tissue level was assigned to the SSI event