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STERNAL WOUND INFECTIONS IN DIABETIC PATIENTS(B4) Angela Cook, Southwest Washington Medical Center, Vancouver, WA

([AmCook@swmedicalcenter.org](mailto:AmCook@swmedicalcenter.org)) IRB approval received.

The increased risk of surgical site infections is well documented in patients with diabetes mellitus, especially in those patients with poorly controlled blood glucose. Diabetic patients undergoing open heart surgery are at significant risk for sternal wound infections, especially after hospital discharge. The objective of this project is development of a follow up program to minimize risk of readmission due to hyperglycemia related complications in patients with newly diagnosed or poorly controlled diabetes who have undergone open heart surgery. Patients are identified by the pharmacist on the inpatient glycemic control team. A standardized discharge process and educational materials were developed. Each patient receives counseling by a pharmacist prior to discharge about the importance of blood glucose control. A follow up phone call is made to each patient after discharge to verify home insulin regimens, clarify any diabetes related questions, ensure access to diabetes related follow up care, and assess the impact of the discharge education. Barriers to follow-up and adherence are noted. To ensure patients have access to outpatient follow-up for their diabetes, follow up information is forwarded to the patients' primary care provider or an appointment can be scheduled at the SWMC diabetes clinic. The results will be discussed.