



# HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND

*Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa*




Australasian College  
for Infection Prevention and Control  
**2016 CONFERENCE**



# The New Zealand Surgical Site Infection Improvement Programme: A Quality Improvement Programme Supporting Systems-based Practice Change

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**No Conflicts  
to Disclose**



# Outline

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- **New Zealand district health boards**
- **Health Quality & Safety Commission**
- **IPC programme**
- **SSIIP**
  - **Quality & safety markers**
  - **Successes & barriers**
  - **Future work**

# New Zealand 20 District Health Boards



# NZ Health Quality & Safety Commission

- Formally established under the NZ Public Health & Disability Act 2010
- *Triple Aim:*
  - Improved quality, safety and experience of care
    - Lead quality improvement activities
    - Provide accurate and consistent SSI measurement and reporting via National Monitor
    - Drive culture and behaviour change
  - Improved health and equity for all populations
    - Reduction in SSI rates
  - Better value for public health resources
    - National monitor as data warehouse



# SSII data captured

- Patient identification
  - NHI and DHB-specific case form number
- Patient demographics
  - Age (date of birth), gender, ht, wt and BMI
- Admission and discharge (or date of death) dates
- Procedure
  - Code, location, primary or revision, emergency, surgeon grade, surgeon code
- Risk score
  - Wound class, length of surgery, ASA score
- Anaesthetic
  - Type given
- Antibiotics
  - “right drug, right dose, right time”
- Skin preparation
- Readmission within 90 days of the procedure
- SSI
  - Timing
  - Type of SSI (NHSN definitions)
  - Microbiology

# Approach to improvement

- Clinical and executive leadership
- Multidisciplinary teamwork
- Consumer engagement
- Evidence-based improvement interventions
- Effective use of data – national & local reports
- Publicly reported *quality & safety markers*
- Appropriate improvement methodology used
- Regional networking to share successes and sustain practice improvement

# Consumer engagement



## What can you and your family/whānau do to help prevent SSIs?

### Before your operation:

- tell your doctor about other health problems you might have, such as diabetes – these could affect your surgery and your treatment
- If you smoke, talk to your doctor or ask to be referred to your local smoking cessation programme for support to stop smoking before your surgery – patients who smoke get more infections

- don't shave where you will have surgery.

### At the time of your operation:

- speak up if someone tries to shave you with a razor before surgery. Ask why you need to be shaved rather than clipped
- ask if you will get antibiotics before surgery.

## What are hospitals doing to prevent SSIs?

To prevent SSIs, doctors, nurses and other health care staff:

- clean their hands and arms up to their elbows with an antiseptic just before the operation
- wear hair covers, masks, gowns and gloves during the operation to keep the surgery area clean
- remove your hair around the operation site using electric clippers – not a razor, which could irritate the skin and make it easier to develop an infection
- give you antibiotics before your surgery starts
- clean the skin at the operation site with an antiseptic that kills bacteria (germs)
- clean their hands with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand rub before and after caring for you and other patients.



**SSII** Surgical Site Infection Improvement Programme



# SSII Programme process measures

- **Antibiotic prophylaxis given on time**
  - 0-60 minutes before knife to skin
- **Correct dose of recommended antibiotic**
  - cefazolin 2g or cefuroxime 1.5g
- **Alcohol-based skin preparation**
  - with chlorhexidine or povidone iodine
- **Additional interventions encouraged but not reported as QSM**
  - Clipping not shaving the surgical site
  - Duration of post-operative surgical antibiotic prophylaxis



# 'On time' antibiotic prophylaxis

Figure 8: Process marker, percentage of operations where antibiotic given 0-60 minutes before 'knife to skin'

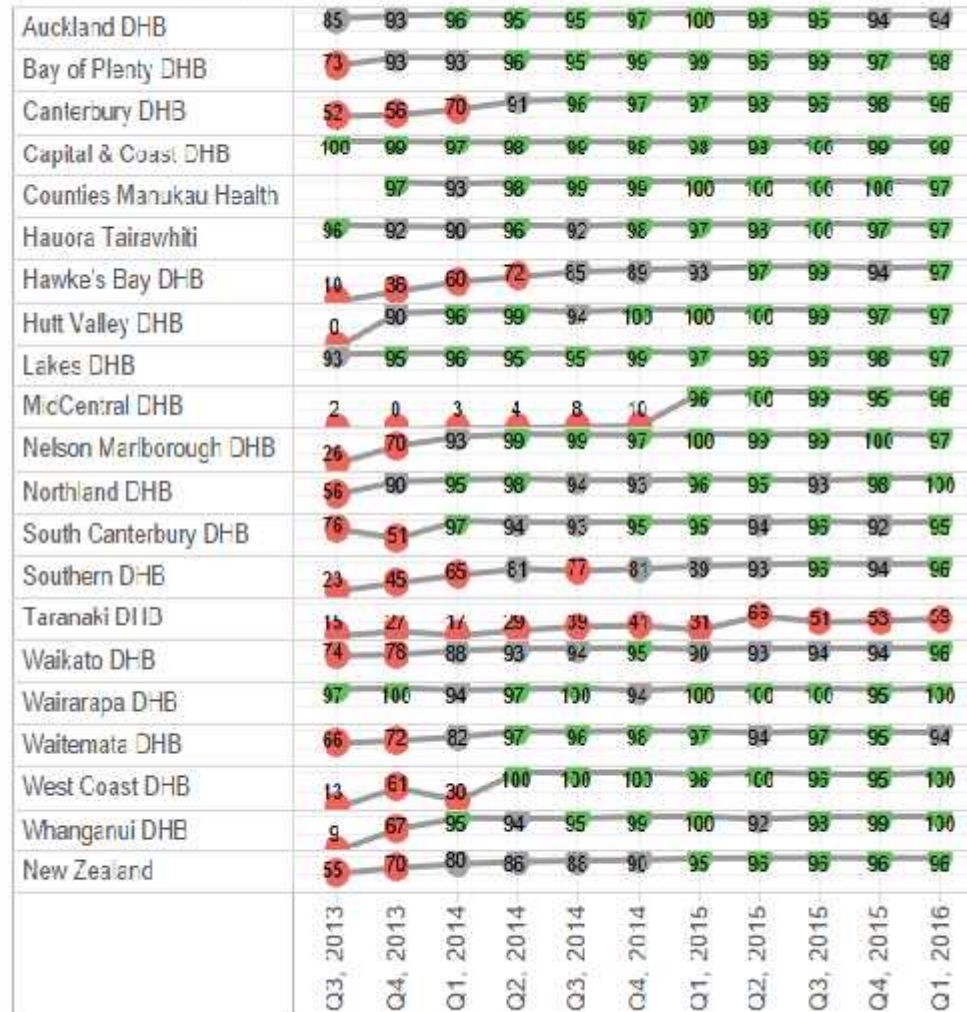
Auckland DHB	97	98	98	96	96	97	96	95	96	95	94
Bay of Plenty DHB	95	92	95	97	95	97	98	99	99	96	99
Canterbury DHB	94	96	97	96	94	99	97	100	100	98	99
Capital & Coast DHB	93	90	93	99	95	96	90	100	100	100	100
Courties Manukau Health		80	83	94	97	99	97	97	98	98	94
Hauraki Ta Rauwhiti	91	91	88	88	95	95	95	100	91	97	97
Hawke's Bay DHB	94	87	95	93	100	98	100	100	98	100	100
Hutt Valley DHB	99	87	83	87	94	90	95	97	98	94	95
Lakes DHB	98	98	99	98	100	99	99	98	97	100	97
MidCentral DHB	91	94	96	99	97	96	90	100	99	98	93
Nelson Marlborough DHB	92	87	97	99	100	96	97	99	96	99	100
Northland DHB	98	89	96	97	96	96	93	91	92	98	93
South Canterbury DHB	93	84	95	100	100	100	100	100	96	100	100
Southern DHB	76	65	90	91	92	90	92	93	92	90	97
Taranaki DHB	93	91	100	97	98	90	95	97	91	80	100
Waikato DHB	85	98	89	87	92	81	83	92	94	97	93
Wairarapa DHB	97	100	100	97	100	96	100	100	100	95	100
Waitemata DHB	93	92	95	96	98	97	97	94	96	96	92
West Coast DHB	87	94	100	89	100	100	96	100	93	100	100
Whanganui DHB	89	94	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
New Zealand	93	89	95	94	96	95	96	96	97	97	97
	Q3, 2013	Q4, 2013	Q1, 2014	Q2, 2014	Q3, 2014	Q4, 2014	Q1, 2015	Q2, 2015	Q3, 2015	Q4, 2015	Q1, 2016

■ Upper group   
 ■ Middle group   
 ■ Lower group

Intervention	Sep 2013	Mar 2016	Diff
Patients receiving antibiotic on time for primary procedure (within 60 mins of knife to skin)	89%	97%	+8%
Patients had surgical antibiotic prophylaxis stopped within 24 hours of surgery	56%	96%	+40%

# Correct dose of antibiotic

Figure 9: Process marker, percentage of operations where 2g or more cefazolin or 1.5g or more cefuroxime given



Upper group Middle group Lower group

Intervention	Sep 2013	Mar 2016	Diff
Patients receiving the correct dose of antibiotic before surgery	63%	96%	+33%

# Use of alcohol-based skin prep

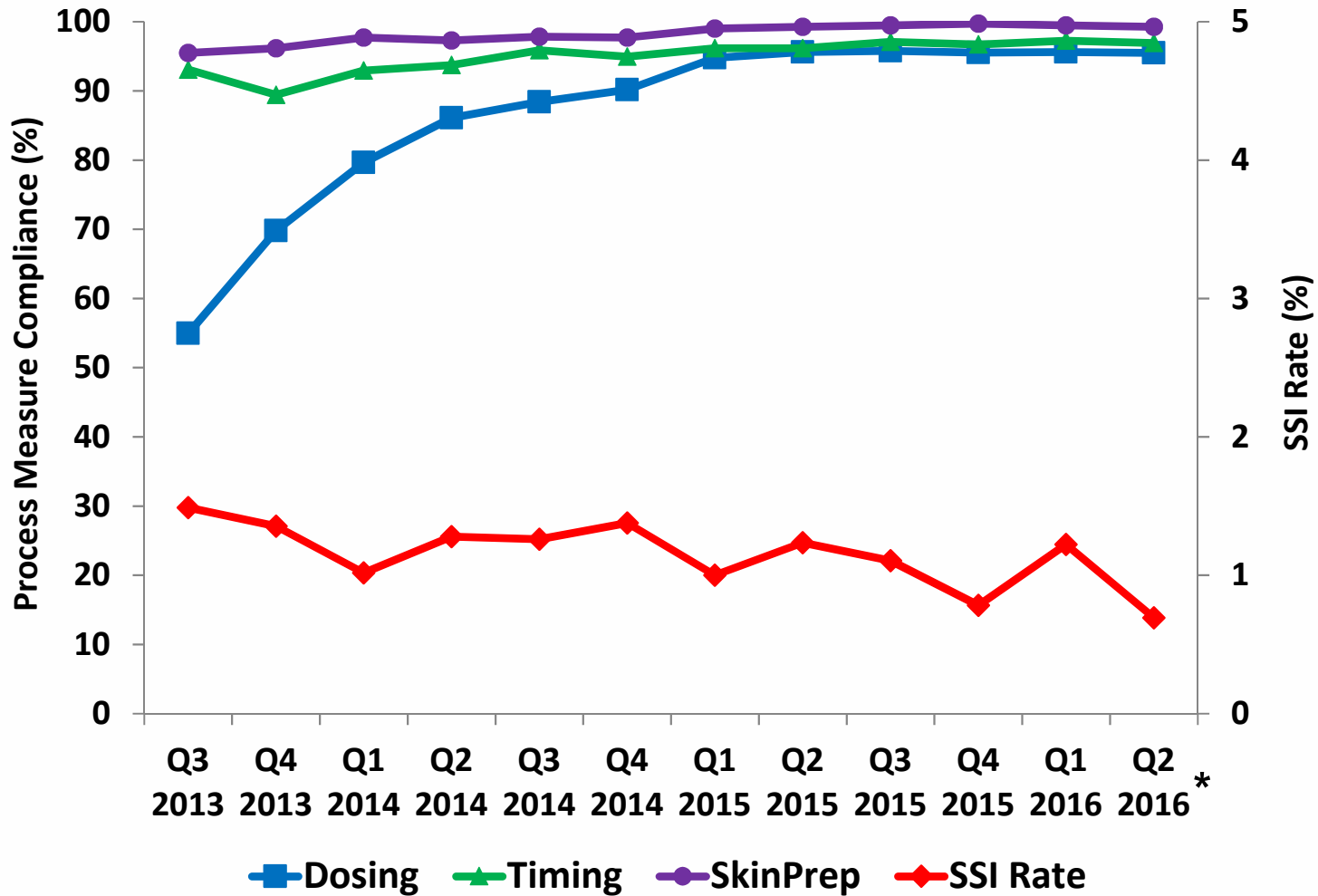
Figure 10: Process marker, percentage of operations given appropriate skin preparation



■ Upper group   
 ■ Middle group   
 ■ Lower group

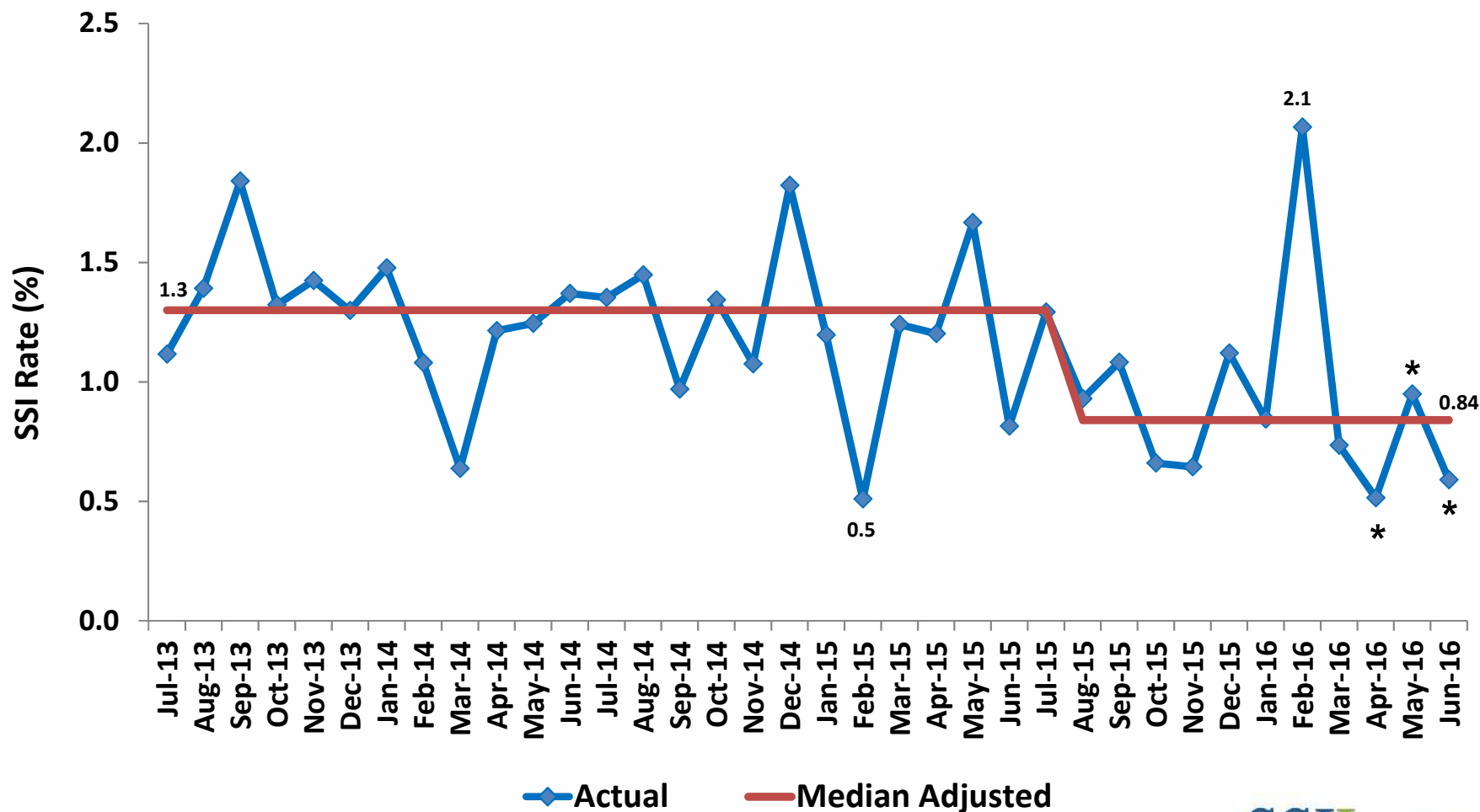
Intervention	Sep 2013	Mar 2016	Diff
Patients had an alcohol-based skin antiseptis	97%	99%	+2%

# Orthopaedic SSIIIP: Jul 2013-Mar 2016



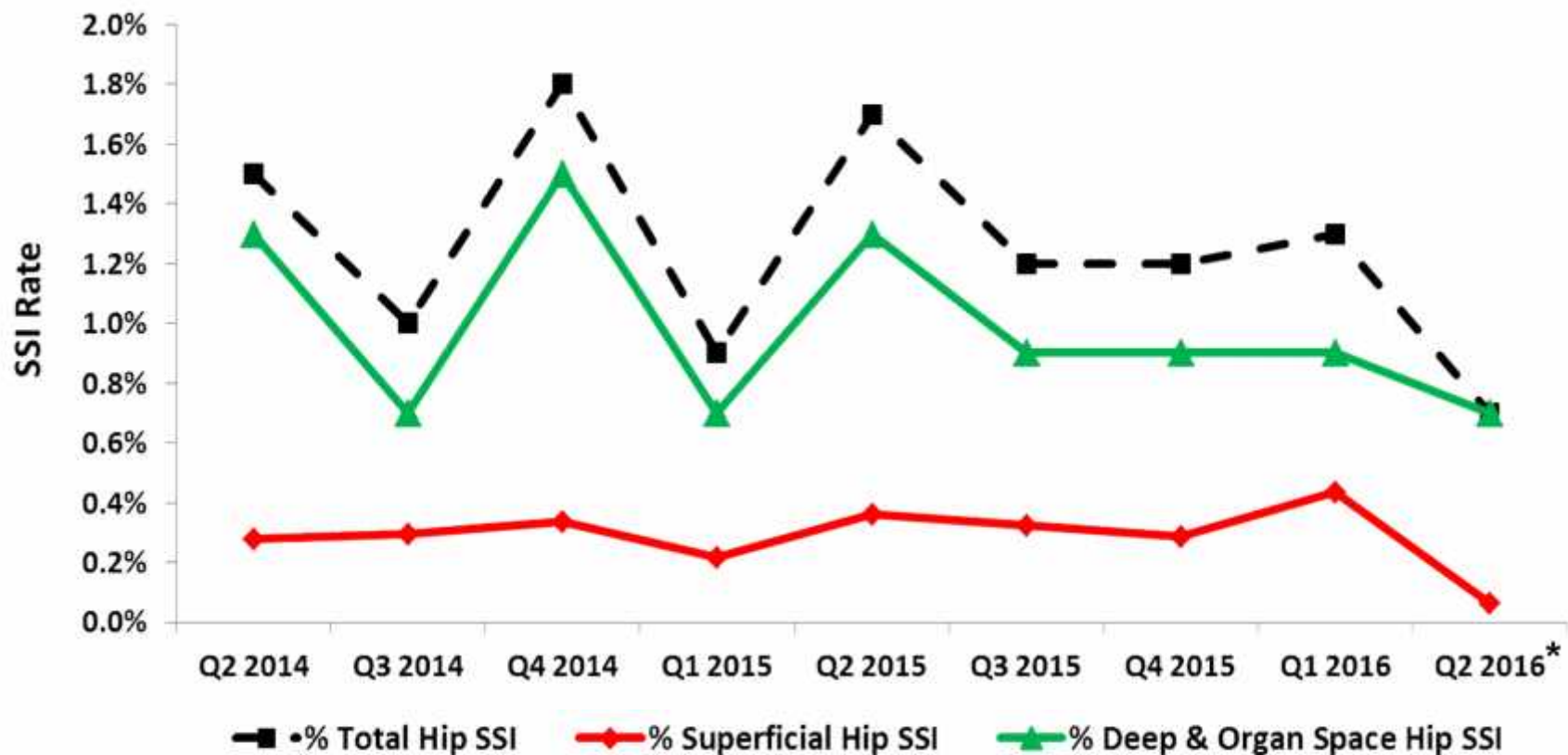
# Outcome measure:

## Hip and knee SSI rate (Jun 2013-Jun 2016)



## National Hip SSI Rates

(April 2014 - June 2016)

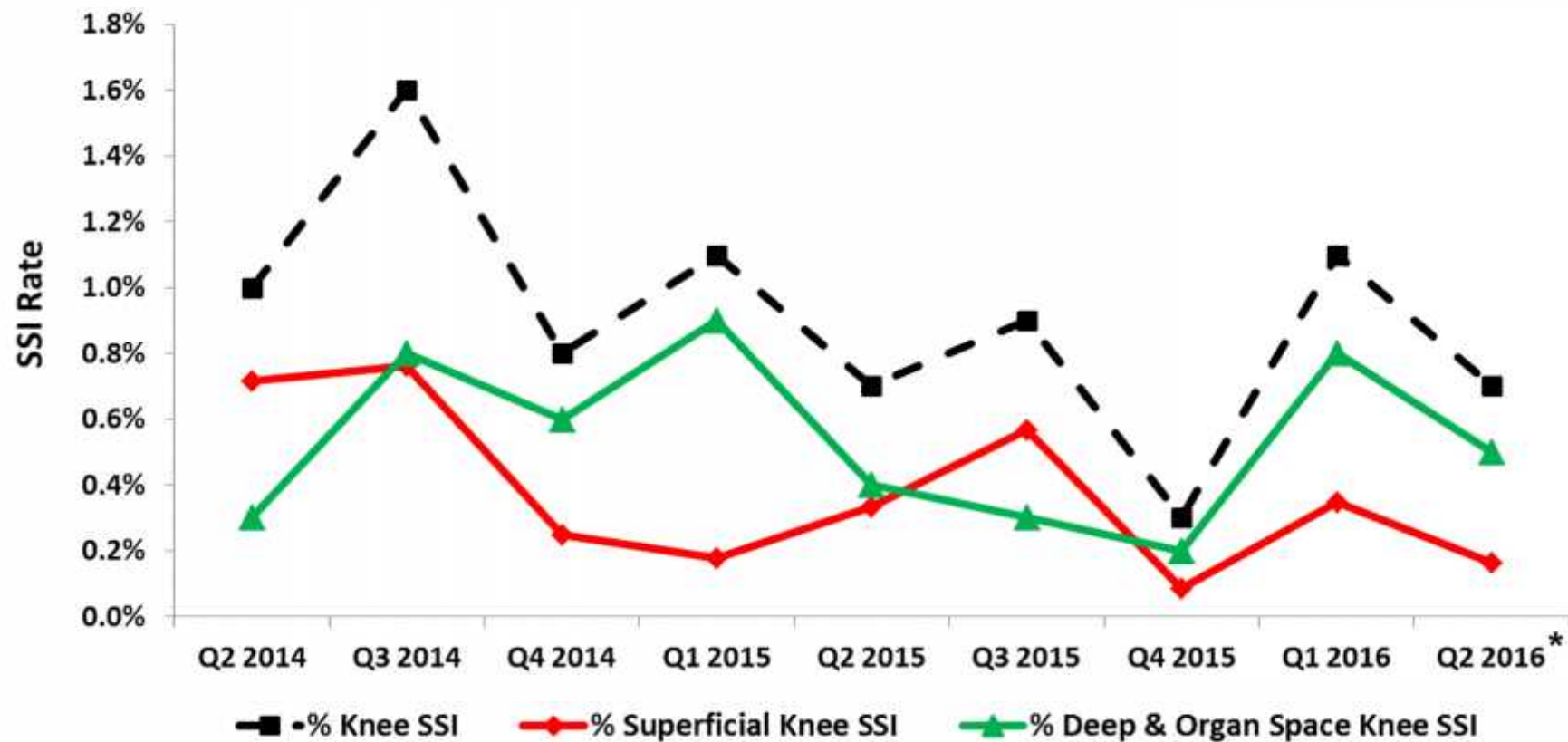


# SSI	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016*
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Superficial</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Deep &amp; OS</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>

\* Draft figures

## National Knee SSI Rates

(April 2014 - June 2016)



# SSI	Q2 2014	Q3 2014	Q4 2014	Q1 2015	Q2 2015	Q3 2015	Q4 2015	Q1 2016	Q2 2016*
<b>Total</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Superficial</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Deep &amp; OS</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>

\* Draft figures



# Risk Factors for SSI

Risk Factor	Significance	Odds ratio (95% confidence intervals)
<i>Surgeon-specific</i> 1. Expertise (consultant vs registrar)	NS	
<i>Procedure-specific</i> 1. Unilateral vs bilateral procedure 2. Revision procedure	NS P <0.001	3.1 (2.2-4.1)
<i>Patient-specific</i> 1. Overweight (BMI >25-30) 2. Obese (BMI >30)	NS P <0.004	1.9 (1.23-3.05)
<i>Surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis</i> 1. Addition of gentamicin to cephalosporin 2. Administration of prophylaxis > 60mins before knife to skin (KTS) or after KTS	NS P=0.002	2.2 (1.3-3.6)
<i>Skin antisepsis</i> 1. Alcohol-based skin preparation povidone iodine vs chlorhexidine	P=0.04	0.67 (0.47-0.97)

# Financial benefits

- Excess cost avoided due to length of hospital stay required to manage infection
- **August 2015 – June 2016 (NZ \$)**
  - ~\$40,000 avoided per SSI prevented<sup>1</sup>
  - 37 fewer SSIs have occurred in 11-month period between Aug 2015 to June 2016
  - ~\$1,480,000 costs avoided
- **March 2013 – June 2016**
  - ~\$14.4M cost of orthopaedic SSI

<sup>1</sup>Gow N, McGuinness C, Morris AJ, et al. 2016. Excess cost associated with primary hip and knee joint arthroplasty surgical site infection: a driver to support investment in quality improvement strategies to reduce infection rates. *New Zealand Medical Journal* 129(1432): 51–8. URL: <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal/read-the-journal/all-issues/2010-2019/2016/vol-129-no-1432-1-april-2016/6848>

## Where SSII is now ...

- Good engagement in all 20 DHBs
- Quality improvement central focus
- Multidisciplinary approach
- Significant improvement in orthopaedic QSM
- Starting to see improved outcome measure
- Significant improvement in dose of antibiotic given
- Variation in duration of postop antibiotic prophylaxis
- Cardiac programme growing
- Results are posted on the Commission website at:  
[www.hqsc.govt.nz](http://www.hqsc.govt.nz)

# Key learnings so far

- Executive sponsorship is vital
- Multidisciplinary teams are needed for a QI approach:
  - management, clinical, quality, IPC, IT, consumers
- Start with sustainability in mind
- Identify barriers/local solutions - consider the FLO approach – no one person can change culture alone

# Local barriers to engagement

## Issues particular to SSIIP:

- Time involved in manual data capture
- Limited engagement with IT departments in DHBs

## Issues similar to other improvement initiatives:

- Lack of senior executives actively involved
- Teams working in silos (lack of multidisciplinary approach)
- Local ‘ownership’ of improvement not created

# Looking forward

- Working in partnership with Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC)
- Increase in automated data collection a priority
  - Support DHBs to build case for investment in IPC IT surveillance system
- Building quality improvement capability key to ensuring sustainability
- Ensuring consumer engagement at all levels of the programme
- Establishing a firm foundation for the SSI ‘hub’ in the long-term including possible spread to:
  - private providers/hospitals
  - other surgical procedures
- New interventions (anti-staph bundle)

# Acknowledgements

- The work being done by IPC nurses, surgical teams and SSI champions

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