



Health Care Quality Performance (HCQP) Program

SURGICAL CARE IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (SCIP) MEASURES

Technical Page

The SCIP measures are [reported on the Department of Health's \(HEALTH's\) Web site](#) as part of the HCQP Program's Hospital-Acquired Infections work. The information on this page provides additional details about the measures, including their data source, how they are calculated, and why each is important.

Data Source

HEALTH's public reports include three measures that deal with surgical infections. They come from Medicare's [Hospital Compare](#):

- 1. Percent of surgery patients given antibiotics within one hour prior to surgery
 - 2. Percent of surgery patients given the right kind of antibiotics before surgery
 - 3. Percent of surgery patients who stop receiving antibiotics within 24 hours of surgery
- } *Higher is better*

Measure Calculation

For each measure, the score is calculated as follows:

$$\text{Percent of patients} = \frac{\text{(patients receiving indicated care)}}{\text{(all surgical patients who should receive the care)}}$$

The number of patients who receive the indicated care (e.g., appropriate antibiotics) is the **numerator**. The number of surgical patients who should receive the care (are eligible for it) is the **denominator**. The percent of patients, or **measure score**, is the numerator divided by the denominator. Hospitals' measure scores are compared to each other and to the state average.

Measure Information (adapted from Medicare)

Measure	Why is this information important?
1. Percent of surgery patients who were given an antibiotic at the right time (within one hour before surgery) to help prevent infection.	Surgical wound infections can be prevented. Getting an antibiotic within one hour before surgery reduces the risk of wound infections. Hospital staff should make sure surgery patients get antibiotics at the right time. This measure shows how often hospital staff make sure surgery patients get antibiotics at the right time.
2. Percent of surgery patients who were given the right kind of antibiotic to help prevent infection.	Some antibiotics work better than others to prevent wound infections for certain types of surgery. Hospital staff should make sure patients get the antibiotic that works best for their type of surgery. This measure shows how often hospital staff make sure patients get the right kind of antibiotic medication for their surgery.
3. Percent of surgery patients whose preventive antibiotics were stopped at the right time (within 24 hours after surgery).	Taking preventive antibiotics for more than 24 hours after routine surgery is usually not necessary. This measure shows how often hospitals stopped giving antibiotics to surgery patients when they were no longer needed to prevent surgical infection.