

## Up to 84% of Surgical Site Infections Occur at Home

We work with TriCare and other private insurances.

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Nurse Response to Your  
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**Remember Integrity for:**

Incontinence Cure  
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Jeanice Mitchell, MPT  
Administrator

Medicare Certified  
Home Health  
&  
Outpatient Clinic

The Centers for Disease Control estimate that approximately half a million surgical site infections (SSI) occur annually in the U.S. Calculations put related medical costs at up to \$10 billion per year.<sup>1</sup> While much of the literature discussing infection prevention focuses on the inpatient setting, the fact of the matter is that up to 84% of all surgical site infections occur in the patient's home.<sup>2,3</sup> How much influence does a doctor or hospital nurse really have over the patient's home?

The ability to identify infections early and manage them competently in the outpatient setting serves as a major cost controller. On average, an SSI increases the cost of post-surgical care by \$3,382.<sup>4</sup> **Three-quarters of the increased expenses come from hospital readmission for infection.** Enhancing continuum of care positively affects patient health status and the provider/facility's performance measures. Call Integrity Rehab & Home Health for home health services that enhance continuum of care, help prevent outpatient infections, and help identify and control SSI that do occur. After an inpatient stay or an outpatient surgery, Integrity's home health services can include:



**Wound Care Including Negative Pressure Wound Therapy:** Integrity nurses can routinely perform the wound cleaning and other wound care that, when performed properly, will reduce the likelihood of infection. Integrity nurses are also trained in V.A.C Therapy®.

**Patient/Caregiver Teaching:** The propensity for patients to forget much of what they were taught in the hospital or doctor's office is so strong that CMS manuals for home health specifically denote that it is appropriate for home health to reinforce the same teaching that has already occurred at the hospital. Furthermore, caregivers have a tendency to change in the home setting. Without home health, this can result in errors being introduced when a non-skilled caregiver teaches another non-skilled caregiver. Teaching orders can also include an evaluation of the home setting, instructions to the family for any important modifications, and a report to the doctor about problematic environments.

**Observation & Assessment:** When the doctor deems that there is a likelihood of infection, Integrity nurses can visit routinely for observation and assessment and extended patient education. This increases the likelihood that infections will be identified early and managed without emergent care.

**Nutritional Intervention:** Nutritional deficits serve as a risk factor for SSI. Integrity nurses can help with dietary planning and follow-up, enteral nutrition, and parenteral nutrition.

### Medicare Pays 100%



For qualified patients, Medicare pays 100% of allowable home health charges. Your Medicare patients receiving home health from Integrity have no deductible, no-copay, and no out-of-pocket expenses.

Please tell your patients about  
**Integrity Rehab & Home Health**

#### References

1. Wong ES. Surgical site infections. In: Mayhall CG, editor. Hospital epidemiology and infection control. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Philadelphia: Lippincott: 1999. p. 189-210.
2. Sands K, Vineyard G, Platt R. Surgical site infections occurring after hospital discharge. *J Infect Dis* 1996; 173: 963-70.
3. Brown RB, Bradley S, Opitz E, et al. Surgical wound infections documented after hospital discharge. *Am J Infec Control* 1987; 15: 54-8.
4. Perencevich EN, Sands KE, Cosgrove SE, et al. Health and economic impact of surgical site infections diagnosed after hospital discharge. *Emerg Infect Dis* [serial online] 2003 Feb [12/8/2005]. Available from: URL: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/EID/vol9no2/02-0232.htm>.