

## 2008 Surgical Site Infection Rates – Total Abdominal Hysterectomy

The “Total Abdominal Hysterectomy Infection Rate” refers to the percentage of women who underwent total abdominal hysterectomies who developed infections in their surgical wounds within 30 days of the surgery. Infections may have been identified during the initial hospital stay, or if patients returned for inpatient, emergency room, or observation care to the same hospital, a different Vermont hospital, or any reporting out-of-state hospital. Lower rates are better.

### **What is a Total Abdominal Hysterectomy?**

A Total Abdominal Hysterectomy is a surgery in which a woman’s uterus is removed through an incision in the abdominal wall. Infections after abdominal hysterectomies are infrequent, but they can be serious when they do happen.

### **What aren't data shown for all hospitals and all risk categories?**

For hospitals that had fewer than twenty surgeries in a risk category, no data is shown because such small numbers do not constitute a meaningful sample.

### **Are there any considerations I should be aware of when reviewing the data?**

Yes, be careful when drawing conclusions from this information. For example, infections that appear after a patient is discharged from the hospital, and do not result in hospital treatment, are not captured in the data. Small numbers of procedures can distort reported hospital performance. Another consideration is that hospitals treating higher risk patients would be expected to have higher infection rates.

### **What are the results?**

See tables below.

### **Total Abdominal Hysterectomy Infection Rates**

The Infection Rate is the percent of total abdominal hysterectomy surgeries that had an infection. **Lower rates are better.** Results are presented separately for patients with different risks of infection (the categories are Lower, Moderate, and Higher Risk). The degree of risk is determined by the length of surgery, contamination of the wound, and an assessment of the overall physical status of the patient (using a standardized 1 to 5 scale). See the Technical Guide for more detail.

Where possible, Vermont hospitals are compared to the Average Infection Rate for “NHSN Hospitals”. “NHSN Hospitals” refers to the hospitals across the country that reported data on total abdominal hysterectomies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Database between June of 2006 and December of 2007.

There are three categories summarizing how Vermont hospital infection rates compare to the infection rates for NHSN hospitals:

- The hospital can have a **lower (better)** infection rate than the national average for hospitals reporting to NHSN.
- The hospital can have an infection rate that is **similar** to the national average for hospitals reporting to NHSN.
- The hospital can have a **higher (worse)** infection rate than the national average for hospitals reporting to NHSN.

Keep in mind that a hospital's infection rate is only one thing to consider when choosing where to get your care. The advice of your physician, the hospital’s and specialist’s experience with the type of care you need, and other factors unique to your situation should be considered as well. Be careful when drawing conclusions from this information. Small numbers of patients may distort reported performance.

| <b>Brattleboro Memorial Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>           |  |                     |                          |  |  |
|--|--|---------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Risk Category  | Number of Infections   | Number of Surgeries | Infection Rate (percent) | Average Infection Rate for NHSN Hospitals See Footnote 1 | Infection Rate Compared with NHSN Hospitals in U.S. See Footnote 2 |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                 |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>Central Vermont Medical Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>          |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Risk Category  | Number of Infections   | Number of Surgeries | Infection Rate (percent) | Average Infection Rate for NHSN Hospitals See Footnote 1 | Infection Rate Compared with NHSN Hospitals in U.S. See Footnote 2 |
| Lower Risk   | 0  | 24                  | 0%                       | 1.12   | Similar to national average  |
| Moderate Risk  | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                     |                          |  |  |
| High Risk  | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>Copley Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                         |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                 |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>Fletcher Allen Health Care<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>              |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Risk Category  | Number of Infections   | Number of Surgeries | Infection Rate (percent) | Average Infection Rate for NHSN Hospitals See Footnote 1 | Infection Rate Compared with NHSN Hospitals in U.S. See Footnote 2 |
| Lower Risk   | 1  | 67                  | 1.49%                    | 1.12%  | Similar to national average  |
| Moderate Risk  | 6  | 154                 | 3.90%                    | 2.41%  | Similar to national average  |
| High Risk  | 0  | 36                  | 0%                       | 4.37%  | Similar to national average  |
| <b>Gifford Medical Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                  |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each category, so data are not published                      |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>Grace Cottage Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                  |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Does not perform this surgery  |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>Mt. Ascutney Hospital and Health Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b> |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                 |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| <b>North Country Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                  |  |                     |                          |  |  |
| Risk Category  | Number of Infections   | Number of Surgeries | Infection Rate (percent) | Average Infection Rate for NHSN Hospitals See Footnote 1 | Infection Rate Compared with NHSN Hospitals in U.S. See Footnote 2 |
| Lower Risk   | 0  | 23                  | 0%                       | 1.12%  | Similar to national average  |
| Moderate Risk  | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                     |                          |  |  |
| High Risk  | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                     |                          |  |  |

| <b>Northeastern Vermont Regional Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b> |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
|---|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Northwestern Medical Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>            |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Porter Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                        |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Rutland Regional Medical Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>        |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Risk Category</b>  | <b>Number of Infections</b>  | <b>Number of Surgeries</b> | <b>Infection Rate (percent)</b> | <b>Average Infection Rate for NHSN Hospitals See Footnote 1</b> | <b>Infection Rate Compared with NHSN Hospitals in U.S. See Footnote 2</b> |  |
| Lower Risk  | 1  | 58                         | 1.72%                           | 1.12%   | Similar to national average   |  |
| Moderate Risk   | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| High Risk   | Fewer than 20 surgeries in this risk category, so data are not published |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Southwestern Vermont Medical Center<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>    |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| <b>Springfield Hospital<br/>October 1, 2007 through Sept 30, 2008</b>                   |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |
| Fewer than 20 surgeries in each risk category, so data are not published                |  |                            |                                 |   |   |  |

Footnotes:

<sup>1</sup> Rates are not calculated for hospitals performing fewer than 20 surgeries in a particular risk category because rates based on too few surgeries may not be reliable.

<sup>2</sup> Includes hospitals across the country that reported data on total abdominal hysterectomies to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) Database between June of 2006 and December 2007.