



Dear Dr. X:

Our records show that during the last couple of months you operated on patients on the attached list. So that we may serve you better, it is imperative that you provide us with the information regarding any possible post-op infection. Outbreaks of infection may occur in ambulatory surgical facilities just as they may occur in the hospital, but will go undetected without your cooperation. Moreover, JCAHO requires that hospitals have an ongoing surveillance of post-op infections in surgical inpatients and outpatients. Please review the listing, make comments if you diagnose a post-op wound infection in the patient, and return the form to us by (DATE). The new CDC criteria for wound infections appear as follows:

Surgical Wound Infection

Surgical wound infection includes incisional surgical wound infection and deep surgical wound infection. Incisional surgical wound infection must meet the following criterion: Infection occurs at incision site within 30 days of surgery and involves skin, subcutaneous tissue, or muscle located above the fascial layer and ONE of the following:

1. Purulent drainage from incision or drain located above fascial layer
2. Organism isolated from culture of fluid from wound closed primarily
3. Surgeon deliberately opens wound, unless wound is culture-negative
4. Surgeon's or attending physician's diagnosis of infection

Deep surgical wound infection must meet the following criterion: Infection occurs at operative site within 30 days after surgery if no implant is left in place or within 1 year if implant is in place and infection appears related to surgery and infection involves tissue or spaces at or beneath fascial layer and ONE of the following:

- Purulent drainage from drain placed beneath fascial layer
- Wound spontaneously dehisces or is deliberately opened by surgeon when patient has fever (>38 C) and/or localized pain or tenderness, unless wound is culture-negative
- An abscess or other evidence of infection seen on direct examination, during surgery, or by histopathologic examination
- Surgeon's diagnosis of infection

We appreciate your cooperation in this very important matter.

Please return survey to (ADDRESS)

Patient name

Date of Surgery

Infection (Yes/No)