### C-section patients with BMI ≥35 were routinely treated with PICO° and SSI rate was reduced to 0.4%

Superficial Surgical Site Infection (SSI) rate fell from 12.0% at baseline to 3.2% after implementation of a risk-based pathway in C-section patients and 0.4% in those treated with a PICO° dressing.

#### Evidence
- Level 3 evidence
- Retrospective baseline audit followed by retrospective case audit
- Real World Evidence with a large data set

#### Baseline SSI rate in all C-section patients was 12.0% and frequent readmissions were seen in those with BMI ≥35
- 3-4 patients per month with BMI ≥35 were readmitted because of SSI or dehiscence
- Audit performed in 2011 at Wrightington, Wigan & Leigh NHS Trust, UK

#### Implementation of a clinical pathway between February 2012 – July 2014 to mitigate against risk of SSI after C-section
- OPSITE® Post-Op Visible as standard dressing for at least 2 days
- PICO° NPWT routinely used in high risk patients with BMI ≥35 and applied in theatre
- 32.6% had BMI ≥40

#### Total SSI rate reduced to 3.2% with no readmissions
- SSI rate in lower risk patients (BMI <35) treated with OPSITE® Post-op Visible = 3.6%
- SSI rate in high risk patients (BMI ≥35) treated with PICO° = 0.4%

#### The use of PICO° in the high risk C-section patient was cost effective
- Cost of an SSI £3,716¹
- Cost of initial clinical pathway £133,776
- Cost of new clinical pathway £11,476* (saving £122,300 annually)

*Average of 797 patients with a high BMI per month

### COMMENTS:
UK surveillance data² indicates that the SSI rate after C-section is 9.6% but increases to 19.8% in patients with BMI ≥35. This further exemplifies the impressive extent of reduction in SSI seen in C-section patients with BMI ≥35 after implementation of PICO° in this study which fell to 0.4%.

This is a non-comparative study and although the effect is very substantial there were a range of strategies implemented within the new clinical pathway and so it cannot be concluded that PICO° was the sole driver for reduced SSI rate after C-section.

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