

# Statewide Collaborative to Reduce Surgical Site Infections: Results of the Hawaii Surgical Unit-Based Safety Program

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This study reports on pre-post results of a program to reduce variance and enhance quality of care of colorectal surgery in 15 hospitals in Hawaii. The program promoted reliable chlorhexidine wash, wipe before operation, and surgical preparation; appropriate antibiotic choice, dose, and timing; standardized post-surgical debriefing; and differentiating clean-dirty-clean with anastomosis tray and closing tray. The program sponsored meetings of participating groups and supported a dedicated physician/coach who provided monthly group coaching calls and occasional onsite smaller group support. During this time, not only did surgical site infections fall by 61%, but there was also statistically significant improvement in measures of effective communication, perceptions of safety and the existence of a no blame quality focused culture.

This study underlines the effectiveness of a coaching approach to in impacting an important and common clinical issue. While the better patient outcomes are the most important finding, the investment (0.1FTE for the physician/coach) was likely returned several fold through the resulting system savings from that element of the Quadruple aim.

## The impact of leadership coaching in an Australian healthcare setting

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This study used pre-post design to assess the impact of 6 professional, health focused, leadership coaching sessions over 6 months on 31 healthcare system leaders, including clinical professionals from the public healthcare system in NSW, Australia. The study used 9 quantitative scales including goal attainment, solution focused thinking, depression, anxiety, stress, leadership self efficacy, leadership trust in subordinates, perspective taking, tolerance of ambiguity, resilience, and self insight and open ended questions on the impact of coaching on work on personal life. The program was associated with statistically significant improvement in all measures except depression and leadership trust of subordinates. Most participants reported positive impacts on their professional and personal lives.

This study would have been stronger with a control group and does not give an exact breakdown of clinical vs non-clinical leaders. Nevertheless, it makes the point with validated measures that coaching brings the same benefits to healthcare leadership reported in other industries.