Impactful Statements
Surgical Site Infections

An impactful recommendation is one that offers the potential for current evidence to change care offered to patients. This influence can be due to one or more of the following:

- Evidence highlighting current variations in care that were previously unsupported by evidence
- Current evidence supporting a significant difference or change from current clinical practice or previously held "gold standard” care

The following impactful statements are based on the Surgical Site Infections Clinical Practice Guideline:

1. When performing cultures, it is preferred to collect tissue biopsies rather than swabs after stopping antimicrobials for two weeks prior to culture when clinically safe, and to incubate cultures for at least 14 days. All lead to higher yields but are not universally in practice today.

2. The use of Rifampin as a second drug would benefit patients that meet both requirements 1) staphylococcus infection patients and 2) have retained implants.

The following guideline recommendations are the basis of the impactful statements:

1. Strong evidence supports that synovial fluid and tissue cultures are strong rule-in tests for the diagnosis of infection; negative synovial fluid and tissue cultures do not reliably exclude infection.

2. Moderate evidence supports that rifampin, as a second antimicrobial, increases the probability of treatment success for staphylococcal infections in the setting of retained orthopaedic implants.