

## 2022 NHSN Skin and Soft Tissue (SST) Infection Checklist

Documentation Review Checklist		
SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION		
BRST-Breast infection or mastitis		
Element	Element Met	Date
A breast abscess or mastitis must meet at least <b>one</b> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from affected breast tissue or fluid obtained by invasive procedure by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has a breast abscess or other evidence of infection on gross anatomic or histopathologic exam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Patient has fever (>38.0°C) and local inflammation of the breast <b>AND</b> Physician initiates antimicrobial therapy within 2 days of onset or worsening of symptoms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reporting instructions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>For SSI after a BRST procedure: if the infection is in the subcutaneous region report as a superficial incisional SSI, and if the infection involves the muscle/fascial level report as a deep incisional SSI.</li> <li>BRST Criterion 3, above, cannot meet organ/space Surgical Site Infections.</li> </ul>		

SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION		
BURN-Burn infection		
Element	Element Met	Date
Burn infections must meet the following criteria:		
1. Patient has a change in burn wound appearance or character, such as rapid eschar separation, or dark brown, black, or violaceous discoloration of the eschar <b>AND</b> Organism(s) identified from blood by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reporting instruction:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report BURN in the setting of an infected burn covered with a temporary graft or dressing.</li> <li>In the setting of a permanent skin graft (autograft) over a burn wound, use the SKIN or ST criteria.</li> </ul>		



## SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION

### CIRC-Newborn circumcision infection

Element	Element Met	Date
Circumcision infection in a newborn ( $\leq 30$ days old) must meet at least <b><u>one</u></b> of the following criteria:		
1. Newborn has purulent drainage from circumcision site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Newborn has at least <b><u>one</u></b> of the following signs or symptoms at circumcision site:		
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Swelling*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Tenderness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AND</b>		
• Pathogen identified from circumcision site by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Newborn has at least <b><u>one</u></b> of the following signs or symptoms at circumcision site:		
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Swelling*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Tenderness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AND</b>		
Common commensal is identified from circumcision site by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AND</b>		
Physician initiates antimicrobial therapy within <b><u>two</u></b> days on onset or worsening of symptoms.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>*With no other recognized cause documented by physician</i>		

## SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION

### SKIN-Skin infection (skin and/or subcutaneous) excluding decubitus ulcers, burns, and infections at vascular access sites (see VASC definition)

Element	Element Met	Date
Skin infections must meet at least <b>one</b> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has at least <b>one</b> of the following:		
• Purulent drainage	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Pustules	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Vesicles	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Boils (excluding acne)	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has at least <b>two</b> of the following localized signs or symptoms:		
• Pain* or tenderness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Swelling*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Heat*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AND</b> at least <b>one</b> of the following:		
a. Organism(s) identified from aspirate or drainage from affected site by a culture or non-culture based testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis and treatment for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST). Identification of 2 or more common commensal organisms without a recognized pathogen is not eligible for use. Common Commensal organisms include, but not are not limited to, diphtheroids ( <i>Corynebacterium</i> spp. not <i>C. diphtheria</i> ), <i>Bacillus</i> spp. (not <i>B. anthracis</i> ), <i>Propionibacterium</i> spp., coagulase-negative staphylococci (including <i>S. epidermidis</i> ), viridans group streptococci, <i>Aerococcus</i> spp., <i>Micrococcus</i> spp., and <i>Rhodococcus</i> spp. For a full list of Common Commensals see the Common Commensal tab of the NHSN organisms list.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
b. Multinucleated giant cells seen on microscopic examination of affected tissue.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
c. Diagnostic single antibody titer (IgM) or 4-fold increase in paired sera (IgG) for organism.	<input type="checkbox"/>	

*\*With no other recognized cause documented by physician*

#### Reporting instructions:

- Do not report acne as a skin/soft tissue HAI.
- Report SKIN or ST criteria in the setting of a permanent skin graft (autograft) over a burn wound.
- Apply the site-specific definition (not SKIN) for the following:
  - Report omphalitis in infants as UMB.
  - Report infections of the circumcision site in newborns as CIRC.
  - For decubitus ulcers, apply the DECU infection.
  - Report infected burns as BURN.
  - Report BURN in the setting of an infected burn covered with a temporary graft or dressing.
  - Report breast abscesses or mastitis as BRST.
  - Report localized infection at a vascular access site as a VASC unless there is an organism identified from blood, meeting LCBI criteria, which should instead be reported as an LCBI (see VASC definition).

### SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION

**ST-Soft tissue infection (muscle and/or fascia [for example, necrotizing fasciitis, infectious gangrene, necrotizing cellulitis, infectious myositis, lymphadenitis, lymphangitis, or parotitis]) excluding decubitus ulcers, burns, and infections at vascular access sites (see VASC)**

Element	Element Met	Date
Soft tissue infections must meet at least <b>one</b> of the following criteria:		
1. Patient has organism(s) identified from tissue or drainage from affected site by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
2. Patient has purulent drainage at affected site.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
3. Patient has an abscess or other evidence of infection on gross anatomic or histopathologic exam.	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Reporting instructions:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report SKIN or ST criteria in the setting of a permanent skin graft (autograft) over a burn wound.</li> <li>• Apply the site-specific definitions identified below (not ST) for the following:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Report infected decubitus ulcers as DECU.</li> <li>o Report infected burns as BURN.</li> <li>o Report BURN in the setting of an infected burn covered with a temporary graft or dressing.</li> <li>o Report infection of deep pelvic tissues as OREP.</li> <li>o Report localized infection at a vascular access site as a VASC unless there is an organism identified from blood, then it should be reported as an LCBI (see VASC definition).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

### SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION

**DECU-Decubitus ulcer infection (also known as pressure injury infection), including both superficial and deep infections**

Element	Element Met	Date
Decubitus ulcer infections must meet the following criterion:		
1. Patient has at least <b>two</b> of the following signs or symptoms:		
• Erythema*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Tenderness*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
• Swelling of decubitus wound edges*	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>AND</b>		
Organism(s) identified from needle aspiration of fluid or biopsy of tissue from ulcer margin by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>*With no other recognized cause documented by physician</i>		



**SST-SKIN AND SOFT TISSUE INFECTION**

**UMB-Omphalitis**

Element	Element Met
Omphalitis in a newborn ( $\leq 30$ days old) must meet at least <b>one</b> of the following criteria:	
1. Patient has erythema or drainage from umbilicus	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>AND</b> at least <b>one</b> of the following:	
a. Organism(s) identified from drainage or needle aspirate by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>
b. Organism(s) identified from blood by a culture or non-culture based microbiologic testing method, which is performed for purposes of clinical diagnosis or treatment, for example, not Active Surveillance Culture/Testing (ASC/AST).	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Patient has erythema <u>and</u> purulence at the umbilicus.	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p><b>Reporting instructions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Report infection of the umbilical artery or vein related to umbilical catheterization as VASC if there is no accompanying organism identified from blood specimen.</li> <li>• If the patient meets criteria for LCBI, report as a LCBI (see VASC definition).</li> </ul>	

