

## York Central Hospital Identifies Areas for Improvement

Beginning on April 30, 2009, all hospitals in Ontario are now required to publicly share information related to a variety of illnesses, infections and hand hygiene procedures.

As part of this process, the hospital has been identified as doing very well in many areas. However, there is work to do.

One of the indicators now being reported is Surgical Site Infections (SSI). That indicator looks at how many patients receive antibiotics within the recommended 60-minute window prior to hip/knee joint replacement surgery. This is considered the recommended time to ensure patients don't later develop infections.

At York Central Hospital we had 26 patients who had this procedure in March of 2009. Almost all of these patients received the recommended antibiotics, however, not all within the 60 minute window.

"We've reviewed the data and are making improvements for our patients," says Dr. Larry Grossman, the hospital's chief of staff. "Effective Monday, May 4, all patients requiring antibiotics will receive them at the time of surgery. We are confident that this change in practice will improve our May numbers significantly."

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York Central Hospital is a large, full-service community hospital with over 69,000 visits annually to its Emergency Department, serving a population of more than 400,000 in Southwest York Region and beyond. Located in one of Canada's fastest growing communities, the hospital is on a Capacity Building Journey that focuses on using the best available practices, the newest technologies and innovative models of service to provide superior patient care. With a complement of 469 beds, the hospital is home to the District Stroke Centre, York Regional Chronic Kidney Disease Program, and York Region Domestic Abuse and Sexual Assault Care Centre. For more information visit us at: [www.yorkcentral.on.ca](http://www.yorkcentral.on.ca)

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