

Summary of NICE Medical Technology Guidance: Plus Sutures for Preventing Surgical Site Infection¹

For the full publication and supporting documents visit nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG59

NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) is a UK-based organisation, producing evidence-based recommendations developed by independent committees, including professionals and lay members, and consulted on by stakeholders².

NICE recommendations¹

- 1.1 Evidence supports the case for **adopting Plus Sutures as part of a bundle of care for preventing surgical site infection in the NHS** for people who need wound closure after a surgical procedure when absorbable sutures are an appropriate option.
- 1.2 Cost modelling shows that **Plus Sutures is cost saving compared with non-triclosan absorbable sutures by an average of £13.62 per patient. These savings are from reduced surgical site infections.** Cost savings will vary by surgery type and baseline risk of surgical site infection. For more information on the cost impact to the NHS please see the NICE resource impact statement.

Why did the NICE committee make these recommendations?

Plus Sutures is a range of synthetic, **absorbable sutures with triclosan (Irgacare MP)**, a purified medical grade antimicrobial¹

Clinical evidence shows that using Plus Sutures instead of standard absorbable sutures **reduces the chance of a surgical site infection (SSI)**¹

Even though Plus Sutures is more expensive than standard sutures, cost analyses show that they still **lead to cost savings because of the reduction in SSIs**¹

“Plus Sutures is innovative because sutures are coated or impregnated with triclosan (Irgacare MP)”¹

Triclosan **helps reduce biofilm formation and bacterial colonisation**, preventing the growth of most common organisms associated with **SSI for at least 7 days**¹

Intended use

- **Plus Sutures would replace using non-triclosan absorbable sutures** for wound closure in people that have had a surgical procedure, when absorbable sutures are an appropriate option¹
- Plus Sutures should be used as part of a locally agreed bundle of care **to reduce SSIs**¹
- **GPs with minor surgery clinics** may also benefit from using Plus Sutures¹

Clinical evidence

31 Randomised controlled trials¹ Meta-analyses showed nearly **30%** reduction in the risk of SSI¹

Cost

£13.62 Saving per patient*¹  Reduction in SSI incidence is the main cost driver¹

*by using Plus Sutures compared with non-triclosan absorbable sutures, likely to be conservative¹

Environmental

Plus Sutures results in potential environmental benefits to the NHS¹

References:

1. © NICE 2021. MEDICAL TECHNOLOGY GUIDANCE: PLUS SUTURES FOR PREVENTING SURGICAL SITE INFECTION. Available from: nice.org.uk/guidance/MTG59 Accessed on: 28 June 2021. All rights reserved. Subject to Notice of rights. NICE guidance is prepared for the National Health Service in England. All NICE guidance is subject to regular review and may be updated or withdrawn. NICE accepts no responsibility for the use of its content in this product/publication.¹
2. NICE. NICE home page. Available at: nice.org.uk/ Accessed on: 28 June 2021.