

- **Surgery** is an invasive operative procedure in which skin or mucous membranes and connective tissue is incised or the procedure is carried out using an instrument that is introduced through a natural body orifice. It includes minimally invasive procedures involving biopsies or placement of probes or catheters requiring the entry into a body cavity through a needle or trocar. Surgeries include a range of procedures from minimally invasive dermatological procedures (biopsy, excision, and deep cryotherapy for malignant lesions) to vaginal birth or Caesarian delivery to extensive multiorgan transplantation. It does not include use of such things as otoscopes and drawing blood. *Organizations may choose to adopt a list of surgical procedures to supplement the definition above; one example of such a list in common use is that of the Institute of Clinical Systems Improvement.*
- **Surgery begins**, regardless of setting, at point of surgical incision, tissue puncture, or insertion of instrument into tissues, cavities, or organs.
- **Surgery ends** after all incisions or procedural access routes have been closed in their entirety, device(s) such as probes or instruments have been removed, and, if relevant, final surgical counts confirming accuracy of counts and resolving any discrepancies have concluded and the patient has been taken from the operating/procedure room.
- **Unambiguous** refers to an event that is clearly defined and easily identified.
- **Unintended retention** of a foreign object refers to a foreign object introduced into the body during a surgical or other invasive procedure, without removal prior to the end of the surgery or procedure, which the surgeon or other practitioner did not intend to leave in the body.