



Costs associated with extended stays due to surgical site infection reduced by 11% in facilities with Certified Surgical Technologists.

Though data about excess costs related to preventable surgical events are rare, data are available from a nonprofit statewide trade association of Virginia's hospitals about the cost of medical care related to extended hospital stays occasioned by a surgical site infection. The data are not specific to surgical site infections directly caused by a surgical technologist, uncertified or otherwise. **Nonetheless, the data reveal that facilities utilizing only credentialed personnel as surgical technologists - who are the practitioners primarily responsible for maintaining the sterile field and preventing breaks in aseptic technique - reduced by 11% the costs associated with extended stays due to surgical site infection.**

Source: vaprincepoint.org, January 2007 – September 2007

	<i><u>Hospitals that require Certified Surgical Technologists (10 hospitals*)</u></i>	<i><u>Hospitals that do not require certification (37 hospitals*)</u></i>	<i><u>Both groups of hospitals (47 hospitals*)</u></i>
Average Number of Discharges for Post-traumatic and Post-operative Infection:	25.9	27.6	27.26
Average Length of Stay (days):	4.79	5.25	5.15
Average Charge Per Patient Stay:	\$14,712	\$17,118	\$16,606
Average Charge Per Day:	\$2,849	\$3,234	\$3,152
Median Charge Per Patient Stay	\$10,677	\$13,341	\$12,774

*Only hospitals that hire surgical technologists are included.