

June 2021

# 2021 Implementation Guide for the Surveillance of *Staphylococcus aureus* Bloodstream Infection

The Guide was first produced in 2010 to support standardised national surveillance and reporting of *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia in Australian public hospital.

The 2021 Guide was developed in consultation with all Australian states and territories to support the implementation of the current national benchmark for healthcare-associated SABSIs for public hospital reporting of 1.0 per 10,000 patient days which came into effect on 1 July 2020.

## What's changed?

In the 2021 Guide, the following changes have been made to the surveillance case definition:

- Terminology has been changed from *Staphylococcus aureus* bacteraemia to *Staphylococcus aureus* bloodstream infection (SABSI) to more accurately reflect the clinical disease
- **Criterion A** (infections detected 48 hours after admission or less than 48 hours after discharge) has been separated into two sub criteria (A1 and A2) to clarify the concept of “incubating on admission”
- **Criterion B2** (infection associated with surgery) has been revised to include an extended surveillance period of 90 days for deep incisional/organ space infections related to surgically implanted devices to allow for the possibility of a delay in presentation of infection
- **Criterion B4** (infection associated with neutropenia) has been revised to clarify that the application of the criteria is only for situations where the infection is not associated with an indwelling medical device (covered by Criterion B1).

In addition to the 2021 Guide, the Commission has developed a [compendium of resources](#) to support improvements in SABSI prevention. All states and territories have a range of existing resources to further support SABSI prevention, such as maintaining skin integrity, wound care and invasive device management; please check your relevant state and territory health authority website for these resources.

The 2021 Guide is now available on the [Commission's website](#)

[www.safetyandquality.gov.au/SABSI](http://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/SABSI)