

Digital Patient Storybook – Surgical Site Infections

Overview:

[Mölnlycke](#) is a world-leading medical solutions company. We're here to advance performance in healthcare across the world, and we aspire to equip everybody in healthcare with solutions to achieve the best outcomes. We collaborate with customers to understand their needs. We design and supply medical solutions to enhance performance at every point of care – from the operating room to the home.

Mölnlycke has been working to raise the profile of the impacts of Surgical Site Infections (SSIs), contracted following surgery, and drive forward discussions around the challenges and solutions to SSI reduction. In December 2020, Mölnlycke published a first of its kind report, [Time to Act: A State of the Nation report on Surgical Site Infections in the UK](#), which found that SSIs are a prevalent issue but many infections are underreported. Their upcoming programme of work includes the creation of a 'SSI Digital Patient Storybook' alongside a podcast series, webinars, and advisory boards with clinicians and policymakers.

The 'SSI Digital Patient Storybook' will, for the first time, profile the experiences, perceptions and insights of people who have contracted an infection after surgery. The Storybook will include short stories from people about what it means to contract an SSI, including the impact that they can have on the person themselves, their families and carers - be they physical, emotional or professional. These stories will be supplemented by the perspectives of clinicians and other healthcare professionals on current best practice for SSI prevention taking place in the UK. The Storybook will also include recommendations for greater education, for both patients and healthcare professionals, as well as wider policy changes.

The Storybook will be published on Mölnlycke's website and shared with policymakers, MPs and the media to bring greater attention to the damaging impact of SSIs on patients, and increase awareness of the importance of prioritising this area of clinical care. We hope this will bring positive change to the current approach to the management of SSIs, and ensure future patients have the greatest chance to avoid contracting surgical infections.

How can you get involved?

We would like to conduct a 30–45-minute interview over Zoom, which would be recorded and written up as part of a digital book. These stories will then be compiled, and designed into an 8–10-page digital storybook, published by Mölnlycke in conjunction with Patient Safety Learning, a charity and independent voice for improving patient safety.

A brief outline of the interview topics we'd like to discuss include:

- A general outline of your experiences with SSIs - this will explore the emotional, psychological and physical impact of SSIs – to the degree that you feel comfortable sharing
- Explore your experiences and types of guidance received pre- and post-surgery, what could have been improved and what you would have liked to have known. This will help build solutions and recommendations for best practice patient education.
- What you thought was missing in terms of available information and what would have been useful during recovery, including any improvement in the processes, aftercare and follow-ups. This will help to discover the gaps in patient education and highlight areas for quality improvement.

For further information or to get involved, please contact Michael Latham:

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