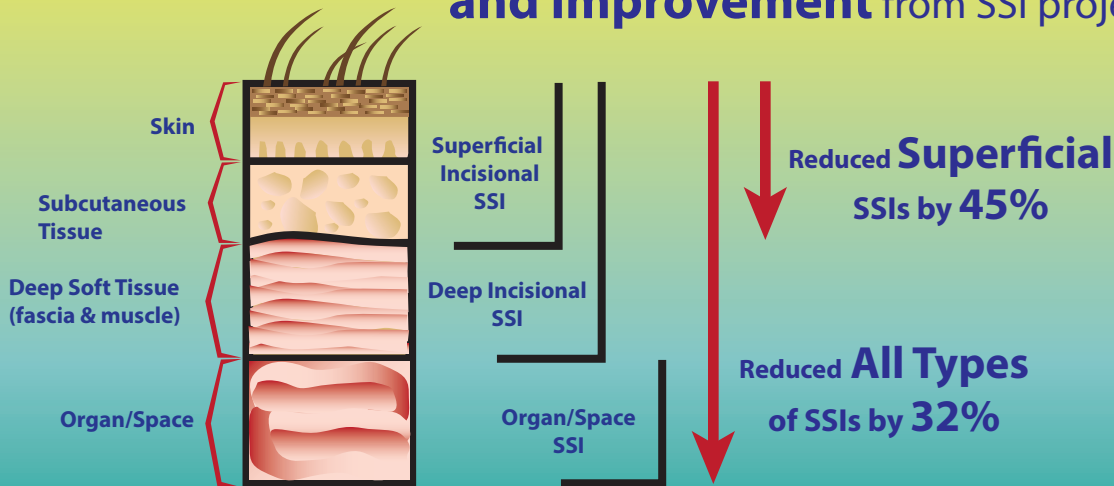


Cross section of abdominal wall showing the levels and types of SSIs and improvement from SSI project



Source: Joint Commission Center for Transforming Healthcare

www.centerfortransforminghealthcare.org

Superficial incisional SSI: infection involves only skin or subcutaneous tissue of the incision

Deep incisional SSI: infection appears to be related to the operation and involves deep soft tissues (ex: fascial and muscle layers) of the incision

Organ/space SSI: infection appears to be related to the operation and involves any part of the anatomy other than the incision (ex: organs or spaces), which was opened or manipulated during an operation