

# Skin and Soft Tissue Infections (SSTI) Episode Executive Summary

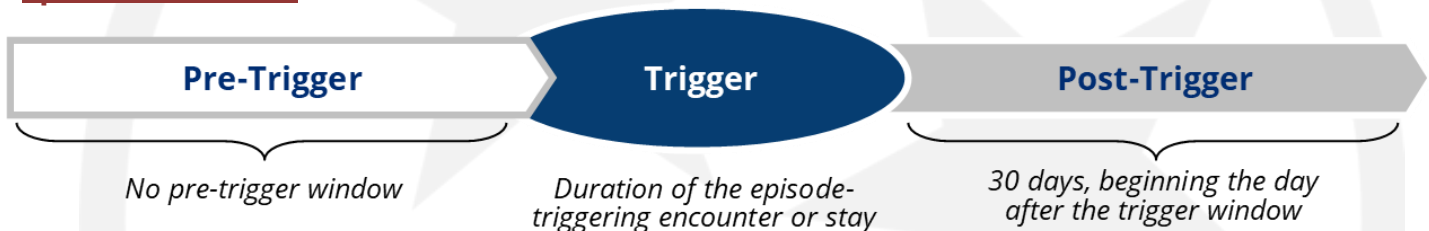
## Episode Design

- **Trigger:** SSTI diagnosis
- **Quarterback type:** professional (provider who makes the diagnosis)
- **Care included:** all SSTI-related care, including imaging and testing, surgical and medical procedures, and medications

## Sources of Value

- Appropriate use of laboratory testing and imaging
- Appropriate triage based on comorbidities and severity
- Appropriate setting of care
- Appropriate antibiotic choice and duration
- Appropriate use of procedures by initial treating clinician
- Appropriate follow-up care
- Reduction in complications
- Appropriate management of complications

## Episode Duration



## Quality Metrics

### **Tied to Gain-Sharing**

- Bacterial cultures when incision and drainage (I&D) performed (higher rate is better)
- SSTI episodes with a first-line antibiotic (higher rate is better)

### **Informational Only**

- Infection recurrence
- Hospitalizations after initial diagnosis
- Emergency department (ED) visits after initial diagnosis
- Ultrasound imaging
- Non-ultrasound imaging
- Incision and drainage

## Making Fair Comparisons

### **Exclusions**

- Business exclusions: inconsistent enrollment, third-party liability, dual eligibility, FQHC/RHC, no PAP ID, incomplete episodes, overlapping episodes
- Clinical exclusions: different care pathway (e.g., COVID-19, inpatient setting at or on the day of initial diagnosis, complicated skin and soft tissue infections such as necrotizing fasciitis, sepsis, shock, diabetic and pressure ulcers, gangrene, post-surgical wound infections, second and third degree burns, multiple myeloma, birth during the episode, active cancer management, DCS custody)
- Patient exclusions: age (greater than 64 years old), death, left against medical advice
- High-cost outlier: episodes with risk-adjusted spend greater than three standard deviations above the average risk-adjusted episode spend for valid episodes are excluded.

**Risk adjustment** is used to ensure appropriate comparisons between patients.

**To learn more about the episode's design**, please reference the Detailed Business Requirements (DBR) and Configuration File on our website at <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/health-care-innovation/episodes-of-care/searchable-episodes-table.html>.