Additional File 1: Definitions

1. 72 hours after surgery: 72 hours from the patient's arrival on the ward postoperatively

2. Documented African Surgical Outcomes Study (ASOS) Score: ASOS score written in an appropriately visible location on the patients notes / ward charts

3. Completed Early Warning Scores (EWS): This is dependent on the EWS chart chosen.

   Each score requires a set of measured and documented vital signs that includes all the following:

   - Conscious level (AVPU Scale)
   - Respiratory rate per minute
   - Oxygen saturation (%)
   - Heart rate per minute
   - Systolic blood pressure (mmHg)
   - Plus documentation of the aggregate score (e.g. for EWS) or documentation of any out-of-range vital signs (e.g. for the Vital Signs Directed Therapy (VSDT))

4. Physician encounters: any documented reviews of a patient by a physician

5. Hospital population: all adult patients aged 18 years or over who have been admitted for inpatient care in any department or ward in participating hospitals on the day of data collection

In-hospital mortality: Death in-hospital within 30 days of surgery. Patients discharged alive are not followed-up at home.