Natural Language Processing
for the Identification of Surgical Site Infections

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Helen Wood Hall Auditorium
12:00 pm – 1:00 pm

Surgical Site Infections (SSIs) are the most common and most expensive hospital-acquired infections. The accurate identification of SSIs is essential for understanding their determinants and designing effective prevention programs. SSI identification is done either (i) manually, by trained reviewers using narrative text from medical records and evidence-based clinical criteria (generally for clinical practice), or (ii) automated/programmed by using administrative data which are known to have limited sensitivity and specificity (generally for research). While method (i) is the gold standard for SSI identification, significant efficiencies can be gained by fully/partially automating this process using medical record data. Natural Language Processing (NLP) is a method for computers to analyze and extract meaning from spoken/written language. The objective of this Grand Rounds presentation is to discuss the development, early findings, and lessons learned from a collaborative study that uses NLP with narrative text from a patient’s medical record to automate the retrospective identification of SSIs.

Assorted wraps will be available while supplies last. Bring your own beverage.

ASL interpreters or other accommodations are available upon request. Contact Jennifer VanRy @ Jennifer_vanry@urmc.rochester.edu or 224-2061 with requests and/or questions

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