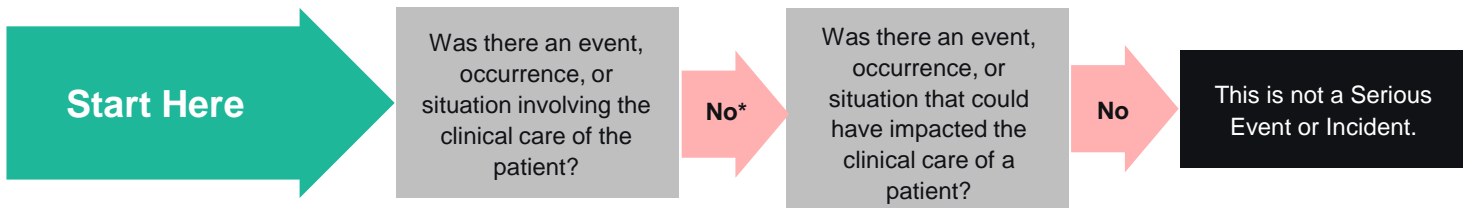


Intentionally Retained Sponges

Narrative: Following cardiac surgery, surgeon packed patient's chest with four lap sponges and intentionally left them in place with chest open. During patient's planned return to the OR, the sponges will be removed prior to closing the chest.



*If sponges are intentionally left in place as part of the patient's clinical care, then there is no event, occurrence, or situation to report. Similarly, in the absence of an unanticipated complication, the patient's planned return to the OR to remove the sponges is not an event, occurrence, or situation.