

MetroHealth Medical Center *Reducing Nosocomial Transmission of MDRO Acinetobacter baumannii*

Problem Identified

MetroHealth Medical Center began the project after discovering an unusual increase in nosocomial infection rates from Multi-drug resistant organism (MDRO) *Acinetobacter baumannii*. To address the situation, the hospital’s nursing, environmental services, administration, physicians, and infection control staff gathered to devise a multidisciplinary action plan to eliminate the nosocomial transmission of the organism throughout the institution.

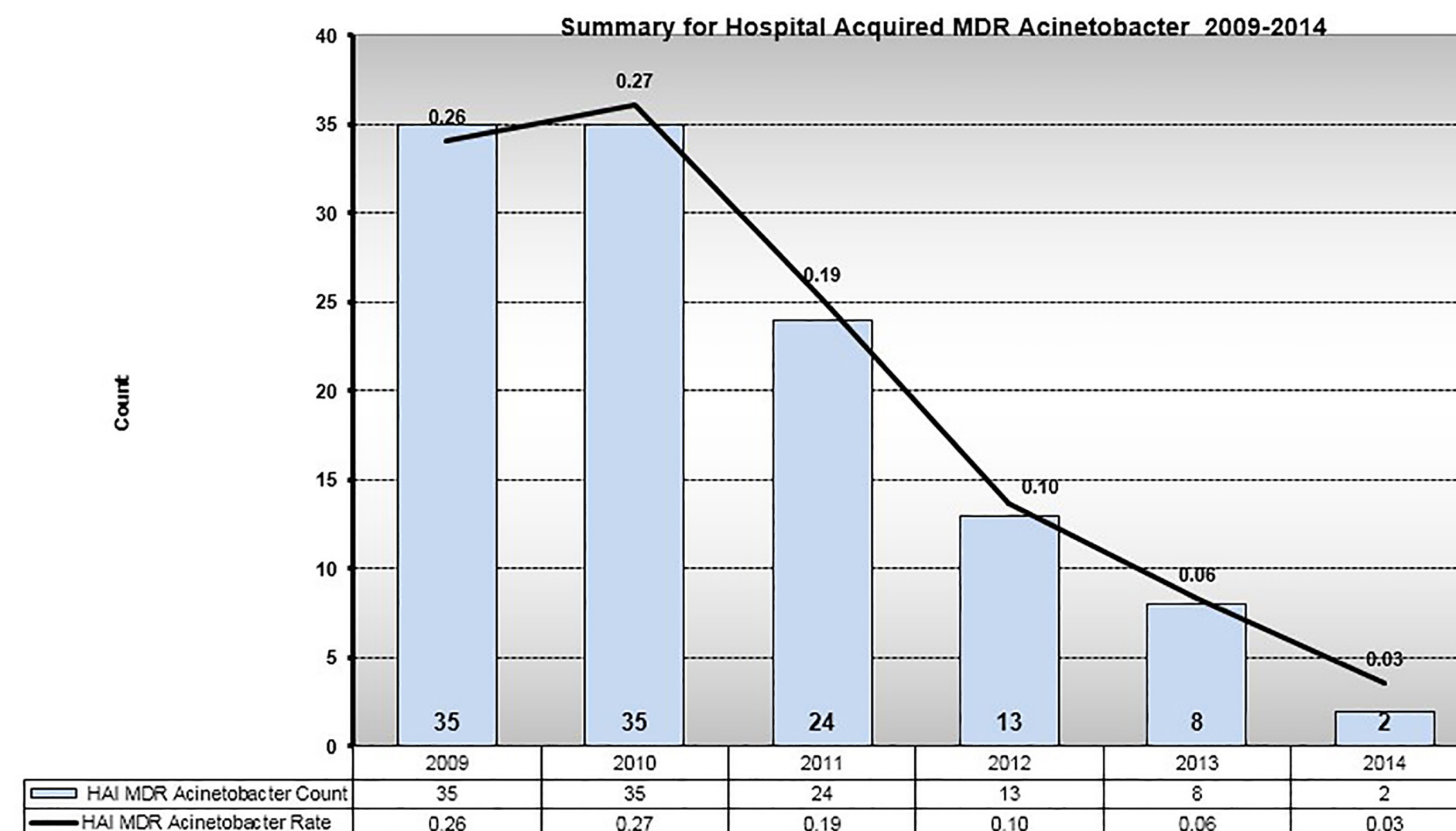
Interventions

The team worked to improve the cleaning process for all hospital rooms. At discharge, the team directed that rooms should be thoroughly cleaned twice and then exposed to Ultraviolet light. The hospital issued directives to follow strict isolation guidelines and re-educated all staff on proper hand hygiene and isolation. The team also used data from Electronic Health Records (EHRs) to flag and alert staff about *Acinetobacter baumannii*-infected patients.

Outcomes

The initiative to eradicate nosocomial *Acinetobacter baumannii* at the hospital realized incremental success during a five-year period. Cases of the infection declined from 35 in 2009 to only two so far this year. A breakdown of the attrition follows:

- 35 cases of nosocomial *Acinetobacter baumannii* in 2009
- 35 in 2010
- 24 in 2011
- 13 in 2012
- 8 in 2013
- 2 thus far in 2014



Leadership and Patient Engagement

By increasing organizational awareness, all departments are now fully engaged in improving the environment for patients and families. Hand hygiene products are located at elevators and various locations within the hospital. Nutrition services also improved hand hygiene in preparation of meals and in meal tray handling. Patients and their families received handouts on the importance of hand hygiene.

Lessons Learned

Assembling a multidisciplinary team to address the problem is essential. Without the support of the various departments, this project would not have been as successful. Key players included environmental services, administration, nursing, respiratory therapy, information services, and the quality department.

Strategies for Successful Replication

Critical steps in developing a MRDO *Acinetobacter baumannii* elimination program in any hospital should include the following:

- Utilize the EHR and alert systems.
- Ensure administration and managers collaborate closely.
- Change the culture within the hospital to increase awareness of how action taken by the staff at all levels directly affects health outcomes for patients.