



A featured project from the Essential Hospitals Engagement Network (EHEN)



Truman Medical Centers (TMC)

Nurse-Driven Protocol Reduces Catheter-associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI)

Problem Identified

In the third quarter of 2013, TMC Hospital Hill found the urinary catheter infection rate was greater than the national mean, especially in medical-surgical. TMC is an academic teaching hospital providing a quality safety net for the underserved, providing 11 percent of all unreimbursed care in Missouri. TMC is the primary teaching site for the University of Missouri-Kansas City.

Interventions

Stage I

- urinary tract infections investigated using infection prevention and control survey tool (CAUTI Algorithm)
- urinary catheters placed only if the patient meets criteria
- nurse-driven protocol ensuring catheter only placed when criteria met and is removed within three days of insertion or when criteria no longer met
- catheter necessity addressed each shift by nursing staff

Stage II (current)

- address documentation in all areas of the electronic health record (EHR) reflecting common language
- daily compliance rounding

Leadership and Patient Engagement

This project was an interdisciplinary workgroup, led by the director of medical rehabilitation with support from the chief operations officer, senior vice president of clinical coordination, and the chief medical officer. Patients are taught to report the symptoms of urinary tract infections to the staff, asked to participate in the determination of the need for the catheter and included in the post-catheter discontinuation process.

Outcomes

Use of the CAUTI protocol decreased the CAUTI rate from 12.66/1000 device days on the medical unit and 2.22/1000 device days in the intensive care units (ICUs) to 10/1000 device days throughout the units, during the first quarter of this year. This decreased the length of stay for the units. Additionally, it improved communication between the disciplines and nursing, and it increased patient satisfaction.

Lessons Learned

The team initially focused on the protocol surrounding removal of the catheter, but found they needed to include changes in the EHR as the protocol was developed. In addition, partnering with the disciplines brought a fuller understanding of all that is involved in preventing CAUTI.

Strategies for Successful Replication

A program for eliminating CAUTIs in a hospital setting should include the following:

- using an interdisciplinary team and nursing driven protocols, which are supported by the physician groups;
- engaging the staff to own the protocol; and
- stressing the connection between CAUTI and lost revenue.

