2014 Gage Awards

Reference #	7492600
Status	Complete
Name of hospital or health system	University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham (UAB)
Name of project	Leveraging Technology for Patient Safety
CEO name	Anthony Patterson
CEO approval	Check here to confirm that your CEO approves of this project being submitted for a 2014 Gage Award
Submitter name (first and last)	Barbara Doster
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Within which of the two categories does your application best align?	Quality
1. Provide a brief description of the project. (This section should resemble an abstract for a poster presentation or an abstract for a peer reviewed journal. Include an objective, data sources, study design, findings, and conclusions.)	University of Alabama Hospital at Birmingham (UAB) has adopted innovative technology where empowered individuals, integrated information systems (IS), and a holistic framework for radio frequency identification (RFID) applications. The use of this system has improved patient safety against sponges as retained surgical foreign bodies (RSFB). The retention of a foreign object is considered a serious preventable event and UAB has through shared governance provided staff and surgeons a technology to ensure nothing is left behind.
1A. Attachment, if applicable (Applicable examples include a peer reviewed journal article, other content published in the literature, or a presentation at a national meeting)	Before.jpg (50k)

2. Describe the methods use in this project. Include where, why, and how the project was accomplished.	A nursing Professional Action Coordinating Team (PACT) drove the implementation of a staff driven process improvement initiative to address RSFB after education presentation of the hospitals "never event" rate. PACTs are multidisciplinary, multilevel teams that professionally collaborate to resolve nursing related issues. The need to decide upon a technology solution for elimination of RSFB "never event" was the charge of the PACT group. Staff from across the health system provided representation from all departments that provide any form of invasive open surgical care. The PACT coordinated vendor presentations, choose two different technologies to conduct trials of their products, educated staff on the use and gathered data from all trail participants through questionnaires about the functionality and ease of use. The group's choice was presented to the Hospital Executive Operating Room Committee for endorsement and Administrative Leadership for funding.
3. Describe the results of the project. What data was used to support improvement results?	RSFB - The elimination of surgical sponges RSFB over the past 6 quarters, down from an average of 1.75 per quarter, promotes quality patient care, provides patient safety, and improved clinical outcomes. Anesthesiologists, surgeons, nurses, and Perioperative staff at UAB utilize current RFID technology to double-check surgical sponge counts, which reassures Perioperative team members and reinforces UAB's core values of always doing "the right thing" when considering Patient Safety.
3A. Attachment, if applicable (Only graphically displayed data such as charts will be accepted. Data should include baseline and improvement data)	after.JPG (64k)
4. Describe what happened as a result of the project. Was the improvement related to the intervention? Can the project be duplicated by other organizations?	The elimination of retained sponges is beginning point of safety in the operating room where the ability to introduce a sponge is relevant. Continued vigilance and adherence to standardized practices allows this project to be replicated with success at other institutions.
5. Describe how patients, families, and if appropriate, community was included in the work.	Patients or families are no longer subjected to the painful discussion notifying them there has been a mistake involving a sponge left behind after a procedure. This brings peace of mind for the surgeon and operating room staff along with the knowledge that we do the best daily to bring healing and prevent harm. This is not inclusion in the process, but another example of our core value of doing the right thing for our patients and families.
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