IMPROVING CARE BY REDUCING VAP

The Problem
With mechanical ventilation being a large part of care for critical patients, the need to reduce the risk of infections a patient's endotracheal tube has become critical. With several ways to improve this process, Bronson Methodist Hospital decided to implement a patient safety initiative.

The Solution
Initiatives, developed by the team and put in place to reduce the risk of pneumonia, were based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. The multi-disciplinary patient safety team included staff nurses, the unit manager, the clinical nurse specialist and the medical director of the unit. Four daily monitors were placed on each patient's rounding sheet for evaluation by the patient's medical team. VAP rates were reported back to the department staff monthly and a defined process was developed for screening and confirming the presence of VAP.

Results
» Before any initiative was added the Bronson Medical Intensive Care Unit saw 7.6 infections per 1000 ventilator days in 2002. Since then, the rate has declined to 4.1 percent in 2004, and 1.4 in 2005.
» In 2006 and 2007 the VAP rates were 0.0, while in 2008 they have remained low at 1.5.

TEAM MEMBERS

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