

2) Reducing the Occurrence of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) – FINALIST

Emerson Hospital

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

In early 2010, hospital Board members, Medical Staff and Executive leadership convened to address the goal of accomplishing a breakthrough patient safety aim; one which would target a dramatic reduction in preventable harm events. This quality improvement initiative was assigned a three-year timeframe with a preliminary goal of achieving a 50% reduction in the number of hospital-acquired infections by the end of the first year. A review of our prior quarter's baseline data on hospital-acquired infections revealed that Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI) were responsible for the majority of these preventable events. Hospital wide changes in process, protocols and staff education lead to a steady decline in our quarterly counts. As anticipated, the most significant decline occurred with our Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI), achieving an average 58% reduction in our quarterly counts by the end of the first year and an astounding 75% reduction in our quarterly counts for the remainder of the quality initiative period. Since the culmination of this three-year initiative, the hospital has continued to maintain in excess of a 75% reduction in Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) counts.

OUTCOMES ACHIEVED

- A 75% reduction in the quarterly count of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTI).
- An overall reduction in the number of device days per patient on all Medical-Surgical units.
- By reducing the number of Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) episodes, the hospital effectively reduced the length of stay and cost of care for some inpatients.

LESSONS LEARNED

- A series of small changes, implemented over a defined period of time, was most successful in leading to quality improvement.
- The multi-disciplinary approach proved to be the best way to engage the hospital staff and effect lasting change.
- The support of Executive Leadership was a key factor in achieving and sustaining our goals