Have You Been to the Operating Room Lately?

Terry Lynn Burger MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, CIC
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Terry_Lynn.Burger@lvhn.org

Deborah A. Fry MT(ASCP), MBA, CIC
Lehigh Valley Health Network, Deborah.Fry@lvhn.org

Stephanie DiGiovanni RN, BSN, CNOR
Lehigh Valley Health Network

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Terry Burger, MBA, BSN, RN, NE-BC, CIC; Deborah A. Fry, MT(ASCP), MBA, CIC; Stephanie DiGiovanni, RN, BSN, CNOR; Lehigh Valley Health Network, Allentown, Pennsylvania

Have You Been to the Operating Room Lately?

Issue

• Surgical site infection (SSI) represent 1/4 of all health care associated infections (HAIs) that occur each year. The operating room is generally not on the path of daily surveillance activities. Many Infection Preventionists (IPs) are uncomfortable entering the protective environment of the operating room and interacting in the unique culture of the surgical team.

• The Infection Control and Prevention Department identified a need to increase transparency and enhance collaboration with the operating room to improve surgical site infection prevention practices.

Project

• An operating room nurse was hired that demonstrated an interest in infection prevention, was self motivated, and possessed the interpersonal skills to interact with operating room personnel and facilitate projects. The new IP’s responsibilities were focused principally on improvements in the perioperative division.

Results

Within 12 months the new IP was able to identity, standardize, coordinate and facilitate the adoption of new products, procedures and practices that improved infection prevention and quality outcomes including:

• Terminal cleaning schedule of operating rooms with UVC disinfection
• Environmental rounds and measurement of cleaning efficacy of anesthesia equipment
• Reducing rate of flash sterilization
• Implementation of a medical device reprocessing program
• Transition to chlorhexidine as the preferred surgical skin prep
• Posted SCP measures, SSI rates, and Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection rates on Visibility Walls
• Reduction in the weight of instrument carriers

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Reduction of Flash Sterilization

Flash Rate 2010–2011

Anesthesia Equipment

Medical Device Reprocessing

ASCENT Medical Device Reprocessing

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Chlorhexidine Surgical Skin Prep Usage

IMPROVEMENT EFFORTS IN PROGRESS

• Increase awareness: Re-evaluate messaging campaign:
  • Dissemination of performance outcomes to end users is paramount to engage staff in performance improvement and to function as change agents.

LESSONS LEARNED

• Rapid cycle improvement in the operating room can be accomplished with the expertise of an “insider” in this case a former operating room nurse hired as an IP.
• Assigning an IP to work exclusively on perioperative initiatives accelerated the identification and execution of infection prevention projects.
• Dissemination of performance outcomes to the end users is paramount to engage staff in performance improvement and to function as change agents.