A Team Approach to Validating Cleanliness Within the Operating Room

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A Team Approach to Validating Cleanliness Within the Operating Room

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Abstract:
In an effort to create a clean and safe environment for patients, Lehigh Valley Hospital’s Level One Trauma Operating Rooms faced opportunities regarding awareness and ownership of Infection Prevention Metrics. The Problem we faced was that nobody knew what steps were needed to maintain a clean and safe OR environment including key areas inside our OR suites. Despite a robust amount of data collection, there was a lack of structure and accountability to analyzing and correcting data. We implemented a team with key personnel within the OR leadership along with Infection Control Prevention and Krothel Terminal Cleaning to measure a consistent structure based on data, which altered the standard work for cleaning of the ORs. Results from infection control swabbing have gone from the thousands to double-digits. The team came together to create a cleaner, safer environment for the patients and staff to ensure, on a consistent basis, trends are analyzed and countermeasures are created. Using A3 thinking, the group has managed to assess the success of countermeasures and create plans to improve upon deficiencies.

Behavioral Objectives:
1. Identify an opportunity to enhance the overall cleanliness and decrease percentages of SSI's from a support services aspect.
2. Recognize key areas within the OR that are more susceptible to higher levels of contamination
3. Examine trends and establish partnerships with essential supportive teams to share information regarding metrics.

Problem Statement:
In an effort to create a much more clean and safe environment for our patient care, Lehigh Valley Hospital’s Level One Trauma Center faced opportunities regarding ownership of Infection Prevention Metrics. Data was collected and infection teams were brought in, but there was no follow up or structure regarding the consistent tracking and reporting of metrics. This lack of structure led to a misunderstanding of the importance of what a clean OR can truly do to enhance patient care. As part of the leadership team from a Support Services aspect, it was evident that someone needed to create and sustain a program that would keep staff focused and engaged in keeping the operating rooms clean on a consistent basis. We needed to get key personal involved from not only OR staff, but other staff who were experts on how to properly and consistently clean in a perioperative environment. Our results were being reported to the management team, but overall we were unsatisfied with the results. We believed that by reaching out and partnering with experts we would be able to create a program that consistently evaluated the cleaning processes within our operating rooms.

Rationale:
If the information is not shared, the team cannot begin to problem solve. By reaching out and collaborating with our KROTHEL cleaning team, as well as involving our Perioperative Infection Preventionist we began to put together a team that was focused on ensuring our infection results stayed below the AORN standard, as well as shared those results with all staff working in the operating rooms.

Methodology:
The idea of creating a team that would be transparent with the information and how they were addressing them to improve overall progress.

Results:
Immediately there was an improved sense of accountability and sustainment regarding proper cleaning of essential areas within the OR. There was a definite improvement as far as the teamwork involving to reduce possible infections, and staff were engaged and enthusiastic to lower the results and keep the below AORN Standards long term. Staff were now directly involved with the process at 2 levels. They became the owners. Results were posted and the teams accepted responsibility for the cleaning that they were performing. All metrics were shared and targets as well as goals have been met and sustained long term.

Take Home Message:
• PDCA - If something does not work, change it to work.
• Create and sustain an engaged and energetic group.
• Share results….it works!
• Don’t be afraid to look outside the box for help.

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