CAUTI Team Success Story: East Orange General Hospital
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Problem:
Catheter-associated urinary tract infection (CAUTI) is the most common type of health care-associated infection in the United States. The estimated cost of CAUTI to the U.S. per year is $565 million, and more than 8,000 deaths per year are related to CAUTI. Duration of urinary catheterization is the predominant risk for CAUTI (Chenoweth and Saint, 2013)

Evidence:
Preventive strategies directed toward limiting placement and early removal of urinary catheters improve CAUTI rates. Collaborations along with intervention bundles plus hospital and medical leadership are powerful tools when implementing preventive measures for CAUTI.

Strategy:
The approach was to form a collaboration with New Jersey Hospital Association STOP- CAUTI Collaborative, CUSP (Comprehensive Unit Based Safety Project), EOGH's Infection Prevention Team, Executive and Medical Leadership and Unit Nurse leaders to educate members of a designated medical-surgical unit, make revisions to the urinary catheter policy & procedures and enforce CAUTI bundle coupled with automatic discontinuation of Foley if it does not meet criteria.

Practice Change:
Infection Prevention seven day coverage and automatic discontinuation of Foley if it does not meet criteria were the two driving forces to the success. This led to the reduction of both patient days and Foley days.

Evaluation:
Indicators of project success were the ZERO CAUTI after the policy and practice changes were implemented. In addition, culture changes were assessed through teamwork communication tools.

Results:
There were zero CAUTIs from June 2011 to March 2013 on the designated unit. The EOGH CAUTI Team won the Top Award for Cohort Three of the NJHA CAUTI Collaborative.

Recommendations:
The CAUTI initiatives and the CAUTI Bundle should be rolled out to additional units in the hospital.
Lessons Learned:
Buy-in from all levels is essential to project success. Project visibility and monthly reporting to the Infection Prevention Committee supports sustainability. Quarterly reporting to the Performance Improvement Committee and Quality Board helped with accountability and support from the executive team members.

Bibliography: