Decreasing CAUTI Rates in the ICU Patient
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Background
- Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) are seen in all patient populations and all clinical areas
- CAUTIs significantly impact patient care outcomes and patient satisfaction and are preventable
- Healthcare acquired infections impact hospital reimbursement
- Front line staff education efforts are cost efficient and effective

Purpose/Objectives
- Identify strategies to educate frontline staff in efforts to prevent CAUTIs
- Standardize staff education on catheter insertion and maintenance
- Decrease CAUTI rates in the intensive care (ICU) patient

Methods
- Expert consultant provided extensive education to superusers on key topics (catheter insertion/removal, indications, care, and catheter management)
- Superusers provided education to staff members including hands-on education with return demonstration of catheter insertion and peri-care
- Implementation of a hospital wide bundle that included nurse driven indwelling catheter removal protocol, modified indications for urine culture collection, and hands-on education
- Outcomes evaluation and timely intervention. Re-education upon incidence of CAUTI
- Reinforcement of education by follow up competencies six months later

Findings

Conclusions
- CAUTI rates dramatically decreased following education
- Standardized education throughout the unit can increase consistency and awareness
- Education model was extremely successful with subsequent implementation hospital-wide
- Outcomes initiated change to hospital policies and procedures regarding indwelling urinary catheters

Implications for Nursing
- Standardized educational roll outs ensure front line staff are competent with hands-on skills
- Simple interventions can lead to significant results
- Review of basic nursing skills reinforce more complex clinical knowledge
- Ownership of unit outcomes with increased staff knowledge

Areas for Further Study
- Further research on other causes of CAUTIs in ICU patients and possible prevention techniques
- Standardized education on other nosocomial infections could have comparable results

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References available upon request.