WHAT BUGS US IN THE PERIOPERATIVE SETTING?
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Background Information:
Our surgical services department recognized a lack of consistent isolation practices during the perioperative care of patients infected or colonized with Multi-Drug Resistant Organisms (MDRO) including Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and Clostridium difficile (C. diff).

Objectives:
Using Positive Deviance methodology we uncovered staff driven solutions to standardizing contact precautions during the perioperative care of patients with MDROs. Through a series of “Discovery & Action Dialogue” sessions, members from Pre-OP, OR, PACU, anesthesiology, surgeons and infection prevention met to uncover staff solutions to communicating and implementing contact precautions.

Process Improvement & Implementation:
Based on feedback we obtained from staff members during the Discovery & Action Dialogue sessions we developed several techniques including:

- LEAN evaluation tool used to document problems and solutions.
- Developed carts with isolation supplies specific to area.
- Developed MDRO anesthesia cart, with reduced quantity of supplies.
- Developed a reliable communication plan with accountability.
- Developed audit tool to document and reinforce compliance.
- Staff written policy and procedures.

Successful Practice:
The lack of consistent isolation practices, led to staff identifying and trialing their own solutions and ideas using the positive deviance model to seek out those practicing differently and more effectively and encouraging experimentation of new ideas and practices to enhance infection prevention measures.

Perioperative Nursing Implications:
Solutions for implementing a standardized practice for using contact precautions does exist among our perioperative staff. Ownership of the solutions leads to sustained compliance with infection prevention practices and improving patient safety.