Surgical Site Infection Reduction Through Povidone-Iodine Nasal Decolonization Prior to Surgery

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Introduction

• Surgical site infections (SSIs) increase pain and lower quality of life of patients (Andersson, Bergh, Karlsson, & Nilsson, 2010)
• The cost of treating a SSI ranges from $26,000 to $250,000, with direct hospital costs averaging $117,411 per infection (Courville et al., 2012)

Problem

• In 2012, a spike in MRSA SSIs at the Portland VA Health Care System triggered surgeons, infection control and infectious disease professionals to examine processes.
• In 2014 the first intervention targeted high risk patients (CAABG and orthopedic joint cases). Although SSI was reduced in targeted patients, overall MRSA SSI incidence remained stagnant.
• In Summer 2016, rising MRSA SSIs were identified as an opportunity to adopt new evidence-based methods to decrease MRSA SSI's:
  ✓ Decolonization protocol of oral chlorhexidine rinse, intra-nasal povidone-iodine (PI), and chlorhexidine washcloths had been found effective in reducing SSIs by 50% (Bobko, Green & Aarad, 2015).
  ✓ Addition of Vancomycin to first line prophylactic antibiotic agents for patients with current MRSA colonization per CREATE initiative (Schweizer, M. L., et al., 2015).

Objectives

• To implement a practical decolonization protocol to reduce or eliminate MRSA SSI

Methods

• Implementation of the single intervention of nasal decolonization was prompted due to limitations at the medical center (with Courville et al., 2012)
• Pre-operative clinic nurses completed MRSA nasal screening and provided detailed pre-operative showing instructions, including need to prevent recontamination of the skin after showers.
• Beginning May 15, 2017 - All patients received PI nasal swab decolonization in the Surgery Holding area just before surgery (excluding GI endoscopy, eye and sinus surgery).
• Surgery pharmacist ensured CREATE initiative recommendations were followed by confirming MRSA positive patients had pre-operative vancomycin and cephalosporin ordered if antibiotics were indicated for surgery.
• On August 1, 2017 - Operating Room RN's began providing PI nasal swab decolonization before surgery to patients who bypass pre-op holding.
• Infection Prevention monitored new MRSA SSI occurrence and reported on quarterly basis.
• After auditing compliance for the first 6 weeks, discussed ways to improve documentation in electronic health record with staff.

Results

Process Metrics

• Quarterly compliance in Holding Area was >93%, with compliance dropping in Spring 2018 due to shortage of product for several weeks
• Compliance of OR staff in treating after hours patients with PI prior to surgery was 28%

Outcome Metrics

• Zero MRSA SSIs occurred in FY17 Quarter 3, lowering FY17 SSI rate to 0.09 SSIs per 100 surgery cases.

Next Steps

• Continue quarterly compliance chart review for next fiscal year
• Operative Care Division staff member participate in daily call with Supply Chain to prevent product shortages
• Share results with interdisciplinary staff involved in process
• Designate OR champion to support increased compliance for patients who bypass holding
• Share process with other VA's looking to improve MRSA SSI rates
• Evaluate results quarterly

References


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