

“CATCH A BUG”

A CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE HAND HYGIENE IN PERIOPERATIVE SERVICES

Team Leader: Nicole Babu, BSN, RN, CPAN

University of Colorado Hospital, Aurora, CO

Team Members: Terri Link, MPH, BSN, RN, CNOR; Michelle Ballou, BSN, RN, CPAN

Background: Hand hygiene has been identified by the Center for Disease Control as the single most effective practice to prevent Hospital Acquired Infections (HAI).

Objectives of project: The purpose of this evidence based quality improvement project brings awareness to the importance of hand hygiene and improves hand hygiene compliance among perioperative staff.

Process of Implementation: The Perioperative Infection Prevention Council, a multidisciplinary, intradepartmental team planned a campaign to improve hand hygiene compliance. The Colorado Patient-Centered Inter-professional Evidence-Based Practice Model was used to guide the information collected and used to develop the interventions for this project. This included staff education on the history and importance of hand hygiene, a virtual journal club, video simulation of how germs are spread in the perioperative area, and contests between staff for best hand hygiene practice. Additionally, bug stickers were handed out to physicians and staff if they were non-compliant in hand hygiene practice.

Statement of Successful Practice: Monthly hand hygiene audit scores increased from 66% in March, 2012 to 83% in April, 2012. Subsequent audits showed a decrease in compliance; however, in post-implementation surveys, staff reported increased awareness of the importance of hand hygiene and felt empowered to challenge non-compliant staff.

Implications for perianesthesia nursing: Experts estimate that each year more than 2 million hospitalized patients develop HAI. The most common path of transference of these potentially lethal infections is the contaminated hands of healthcare workers. The Catch a Bug Campaign quality improvement project increased hand hygiene compliance initially, but as found in literature, sustainability requires constant vigilance.