

DOCUMENT IT DONE

Team Leader: Susan Bartlett BSN RN
Health Central of Orlando Health, Ocoee, Florida
Team Member: Terry Collard MSN RN CNOR

Background Information: Surgical site infections (SSI) are the most common and costly hospital acquired infection. Decreasing the incidence of SSI is an ongoing goal of our surgical unit. Measures toward reaching this goal begin in pre-admission testing and continue through post anesthesia care. One of the ways the perianesthesia nurse can help prevent this complication is to promote normothermia. In pre-op, we have both BAIR paw gowns, and a supply of blankets kept in a stand-alone warmer. The OR manager presented to our Professional Nurse Council meeting literature from the National AORN conference on Best methods to promote normothermia. Studies show active warming to be the most effective. Nurses in pre-op were observed providing passive warming in lieu of active warming. A baseline audit of 185 cases confirmed with what little frequency active warming was used.

Objective of Project: The objective of the project was to promote use and documentation of active warming in the pre-op setting.

Process of Implementation: Following the initial audit, wall sign reminders to use and document active warming were placed. After two weeks, 178 charts were reviewed. Magnets with a like reminder were placed by each keyboard for the following two weeks and 143 cases were audited. Four weeks later, a documentation software update included a drop down reminder for the nurse to apply active warming, and 158 cases were then examined.

Statement of Success: With the improved visibility of each prompt, the audit reflected a significant improvement of nurses using and documenting active warming from 1% to 99% compliance.

Implications for advancing the practice of perianesthesia nursing: Evaluation and update of electronic documentation tools promotes opportunities for nurse to utilize the most current practices as it relates to patient safety.