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Collaborative QI Initiative Lowers Infection Rates on Neuro ICU
CAUTI Rates Dropped 72% After New Device Implementation

A collaboration between the Infection Prevention & Control and Neurosurgery Intensive Care teams has drastically reduced the number of catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) in UI Health patients.

CAUTI represent a significant source of morbidity-mortality for hospitals, and they account for 40% of all healthcare-associated infections. But by implementing the use of external female catheters, rather than indwelling urinary catheters (IUC), UI Health has seen the number of CAUTI events plummet.

“For the past several years, UI Health has worked hard to decrease CAUTIs by decreasing use of indwelling urinary catheters through prompt removal and the use of external (condom) male catheters,” said Dr. Susan Bleasdale, medical director of infection prevention and control at UI Health. “To continue to get to zero infections, we needed to decrease the use of catheters in our female patients.”

A new external female catheter, called the Purewick™, presented the opportunity to decrease the use of indwelling urinary catheters in women. “It helps to avoid an indwelling device and is more comfortable for patients, while maintaining accurate output measures,” she says.

The Infection Control team identified the Neuro ICU as a good candidate for the initial implantation, due to patients in that unit having increased indications for IUC and high rates of CAUTI.

“We as an institution have been working on CAUTI for several years and have gotten to a lower level, but this unit was the area we needed to work on and why we decided to implement this quality improvement initiative,” Bleasdale says.

A pilot from January to March 2017 evaluated the device for accurate input/output measurement, ease of use, patient comfort, and showed no risk for lower genital tract trauma. Hands-on education and competency evaluations were developed, and the external catheter was fully implemented in the Neuro ICU in April 2017.

THE RESULTS

In 2016, the Neuro ICU had 27 infections total, 22 of which were females. Following the implementation of the external female catheter, the number of infections in 2017 fell to just seven, five of which were females. The CAUTI rates dropped from 71 per 1,000 catheter days in 2016 to 1.7 per in 2017 — a decrease of 72%.

UI Health’s CAUTI performance also compares favorably to external benchmarks. We are one of 150 hospitals participating in the Vizient Clinical Database, a consortium of U.S. hospitals that shares data and best practices. Since introduction of the external female catheter, UI Health has consistently performed better than the Vizient median and has been ranked first out of all Vizient hospitals in the three most recent quarters.

Use of the external catheter was expanded to other hospital departments in November 2017, and current CAUTI rates remain low in other units.

“This represents an effective method to reduce CAUTI in female patients,” Bleasdale says. “The main effect is to decrease utilization of IUC.”

Dr. Bleasdale and Dr. Dayana Maita presented the results of the QI initiative at the Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America Spring Conference in Portland, Oregon. It also was chosen for oral presentation as one of the Top 5 abstracts for the meeting.

“This was a topic of great interest to many at the meeting,” Bleasdale says. “Sharing their experience will help others decrease CAUTIs and improve patient care everywhere.”

Thank you to Jessica Masella, Lolita Fagaragan, Alex Guyan, and Jeff Atienza from the Neuro ICU team, and Drs. Bleasdale and Maita, and Anne Molloy, Leanne O’Connell, Susan Kim, Judith Papendorf, and Ellen Castro from the Infection Control team, for their leadership on the QI initiative and for improving outcomes for our patients.
5 East Med-Surg Team Honored with PRISM Award

Congratulations to 5 East Med-Surg Services for receiving the AMSN PRISM Award!
The award — which stands for Premier Recognition In the Specialty of Med-Surg — is a prestigious honor recognizing the collective achievements and contributions of the nursing staff of this unit. Presented by the boards of directors of the Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses and Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board, it exemplifies the qualities that define excellence in medical-surgical nursing and is a public symbol of a unit’s journey to optimal outcomes and exceptional patient care.
The University of Illinois Hospital was the ONLY hospital in Illinois to achieve this status, and we now are a two-time recipient.
A special thanks to Tye Hughes-Dillard, associate chief nursing officer; Barbara Washington, nursing director; Kelly Banks, clinical nurse consultant II, and ALL of the staff on 5 East Med-Surg Services who helped us in achieving this recognition!

UI Health Transplant Program Recognized for Specialty Care

Three UI Health Transplant Programs recently received quality-care designations from Blue Cross & Blue Shield of Illinois.
The Division of Transplantation received Blue Distinction Center (BDC) designations for Adult Pancreas Transplant and Adult Autologous/Allogenic Bone Marrow/Stem Cell Transplant, and a Blue Distinction Center+ (BDC+) designation for Adult Deceased Donor Liver Transplant.
Blue Distinction Centers are part of a national program that recognizes facilities that demonstrate expertise in safely and effectively delivering quality specialty care. The BDC+ designation also emphasizes a center’s focus on cost-of-care measures.
Blue Distinction Centers for Transplants have demonstrated their commitment to quality care, resulting in better overall outcomes for transplant patients. They offer a broad range of transplant services through a coordinated, streamlined transplant management program.
Visit the Division of Transplantation to learn more about UI Health Transplant Programs.

PARTICIPATE IN THE ALL OF US RESEARCH PROGRAM

The All of Us Research Program celebrated its National Launch Day on May 6 at Millennium Park. The launch event included local speakers, community art experiences, and a health education fair.
The goal of All of Us Research Program at UI Health is to advance precision medicine, which focuses on the differences in our environment, lifestyle, and biology. By studying these differences, researchers may find patterns that can help improve health for everyone. All of Us Research Program aims to engage a community — of 1 million+ participants — that reflects the diversity of America, including many people who haven’t taken part in medical research before. Imagine a future where your health treatments are tailored toward you.
To sign up, or to learn more about the program, please visit joinallofus.uic.edu, or email joinallofus@uic.edu.
UPCOMING EVENTS/DEADLINES

Liver Life Walk
Saturday, June 9
Join the mission to fight liver disease. Walk strong for liver health!
To join the UI Health team or to donate, please visit the intranet.

KRA Deadlines
Employee KRA templates – launched May 7
Leader KRA template – TBD
All KRAs due Aug. 31
Accountability will be tracked via KRA Compliance Report.
For more information and to view Step Guides, please visit the intranet.

Save the Date!
UI Health Summer Picnic
Friday, June 22 – 11 am to 8 pm
Join us for carnival games, a dunk chair, food trucks, and more!
For more information, please visit the intranet.

Transplant Program’s 50th Anniversary Celebration
June 16 – 11 am to 3 pm
Northerly Island
Visit the intranet for complete details!

DID YOU KNOW?
NEWS FROM AROUND UI HEALTH

Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek appointed Chief Medical Officer
Dr. Terry Vanden Hoek has accepted the permanent role of Chief Medical Officer (CMO) at UI Health. Previously the head of Emergency Medicine, Dr. Vanden Hoek had served as Interim CMO since October 2017. During this time, his presence and leadership have made a discernable difference in many facets of the organization, including his guidance in working with the myriad of medical staff issues and his team orientation with hospital leadership. Please join us in welcoming and congratulating Dr. Vanden Hoek in his new and continuing role!

Jodi Joyce appointed Chief Quality Officer
Jodi Joyce has accepted the position of Chief Quality Officer (CQO) at UI Health. Jodi has served as Associate Vice Chancellor for Quality & Patient Safety for over five years, and has been instrumental in the leadership of many initiatives aimed at substantial improvements. She also served as Interim Chief Nursing Officer during 2013 and 2014. This new appointment will help more appropriately integrate her significant abilities and leadership within the hospital’s executive leadership team. She will continue to serve as Associate Vice Chancellor. Please join us in congratulating Jodi in her new role!

Thank you to everyone who celebrated Nurses’ Week!