**Guide-Wired: An Intranet-Based Guide to Central Venous Catheter Identification and Care**

**IDENTIFICATION:**

When our hospital updated to an electronic medical record, daily reports generated by the hospital electronic database revealed that staff nurses were not able to accurately identify and document the type of central line catheter device in their patient. Inaccurate identification of central venous access devices by staff nurses leads to inconsistent care and maintenance and increases the risk of central line associated blood stream infections.

**PROCESS:**

The first step in the process to develop a solution to the problem was to determine the extent of the issue. Based on conversations with three (3) Nurse Managers of Vascular Access Teams within the MedStar Network, it was determined that other hospitals experienced similar issues. Therefore, it was proposed that an intranet link be available to all hospitals within MedStar Network with information readily available to the staff nurse to use. Four content areas were identified as essential for the staff nurse including: Central Line Identification (a photograph identification tool for all central venous catheters used at MedStar hospitals), a Central Venous Catheter Quick Reference Guide, a PICC information sheet, and an Emergency CVC Procedure reference. This solution was approved by Managers of Vascular Access Services (VAS) within MedStar as well as at the corporate level.

**SOLUTION:**

An electronic intranet based Teamport website was specifically created by Information Technology at the request of VAS. VAS designed resources for catheter identification, routine care & maintenance, emergency care, educational information for patients and important forms including photos of catheters from the manufactures to be placed on the Teamport website. The Teamport website was unveiled at the department’s yearly open house at FSHC on January 25, 2010. Positive qualitative data was received from nursing staff who viewed site. Additional suggestions to expand Teamport site to include peripheral IV site assessment and pictures of IV infiltrations. This Teamport site will be rolled out to all MedStar hospitals in early spring 2010. Weekly and monthly monitoring of nursing staff documentation of the type of central venous
catheter will be implemented now that education on the availability of these resources has been completed.

**OUTCOMES:**

1. Nurse will be able to properly identify central venous catheters within the electronic charting system.
2. By summer of 2010, VAS Teamport site will be linked to the hospital electronic charting system.
3. All MedStar hospitals by spring of 2010 will have access to content via the Teamport site.