**Successful Patient Safety Initiative to Reduce Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infections in the Critical Care Unit**

**Organization Name:** Union Memorial Hospital  
**Type:** Acute Care Hospital

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**IDENTIFICATION:**

Data from 2007 to 2008 revealed high rates for catheter associated urinary tract infections within the critical care unit (CCU). The problem was identified through surveillance, unit tracers and statistic monitoring. The unit tracers reported that foley catheters were being utilized for an extensive period of time. The infection control team began to track the raw number of infections and device days. The results were communicated to various performance improvement leaders to start an initiative to reduce the rate of infection. After altering the process and implementing the below solutions the CCU rate remains at zero for the last four months.

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**PROCESS:**

The Infection Control Prevention team, using a RCA methodology, reviewed the existing data and practice, increased tracers on the CCU to develop a solution. An analysis of the current foley catheter process and monitoring tool was measured. The team continued to evaluate foley days.

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**SOLUTION:**

To target and prevent these infections various action plans were implemented. A urinary catheter bundle was created and all associated process indicators were measured. The infection control team and various physicians created a foley protocol with automatic stop orders to be issued. Constant communication and the focus on automatic discontinuation was the main goal within this initiative. In order to remain at zero catheter associated UTI infections a committee was created as well as a champion on the CCU. The results are continuously discussed within the Performance Improvement Committee, Infection Control Committee, Board Meeting and Critical Care Unit staff meetings.
OUTCOMES:

UNION MEMORIAL HOSPITAL - BALTIMORE, MD
CATHETER ASSOCIATED URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS (UTI)*
RATE IN CCU PER 1000 DEVICE DAYS
July 2008 - October 2009

May 08 - Measure Process Indicators (Urinary Catheter Bundle Components)
**Daily renewal for urinary catheter consistently 10-25% (goal is 100%)
Feb 09 - New National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) CAUTI definition
Apr 09 - New Foley Protocol w/ automatic stop order
Jun 09 - Outcome PI indicator - device days
FY 10 - Continue to focus on automatic discontinuation; Proceed with discontinuing silver catheters
FY 10 - Monthly reporting of UTI rate
Sept 09 - HAI Notification Letter & Policy

*Note: Rate is for one month of the quarter during FY 09; monthly reporting for FY 10