Transporting Endoscopes – An Easy Method to Identify Dirty Scopes

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IDENTIFICATION:

Problem: No formalized method for identifying clean versus contaminated scopes when performing cases inside or outside the unit.

Identification of Problem: Staff questioned how to identify an endoscope that was contaminated.

Baseline Data: Endoscopes (clean and contaminated) were transported in pillow cases, clear plastic bags and clear plastic bins prior to September 2009.

PROCESS:

Method to develop a solution:
- Met with staff to discuss possible solutions on ways to transport scopes, both clean and contaminated, inside and outside the unit
- Reviewed SGNA guidelines for transportation of scopes
- Surveyed area hospitals for best practice in transportation of clean and contaminated scopes
- Review of literature

SOLUTION:

- A two (2) bin system was implemented: clean endoscopes to be transported in clear containers with lids and pre-cleaned contaminated endoscopes to be transported in red labeled bio hazard bins with lids.
- This system was instituted for transportation of endoscopes within the unit and on travel cases.

Implementation of Solution:
- Discussed change in practice at recurrent staff meetings
- Developed written guidelines for change in practice

Results of Implementation:
- Staff members self audit each other for compliance
- Management performs random audits on a daily basis

Measures to Sustain Results:
- Encourage open communication between staff members in holding each other
accountable for compliance
• Continual monitoring by Management

**OUTCOMES:**

The number of unit cases since September 2009:

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Procedures performed in Endoscopy</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>413</td>
<td>382</td>
<td>479</td>
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<tr>
<td>Travel Cases</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>13</td>
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• No report or documented occurrence of contamination
• Staff involvement and ownership
• Better patient care/staff satisfaction