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Question: What is the medical-surgical nurses role in recognizing and responding to the infectious disease known as clostridium difficile and ensuring a rapid recovery?

Summary: Successful interventions include rapid isolation and testing of residents with potentially infectious diarrhea and cohorting of case patients in a specialized infectious diseases ward to optimize management (Cassir, 2016). Ambulatory care nurses are a vital partner in recognizing and preventing C-difficile infection. For example, they may elicit the signs and symptoms of CDI from patients as well as effect infection control measures, ensuring patient isolation and adequate environmental disinfection when appropriate (Eilertsen, 2018).

Antimicrobial stewardship optimization of perioperative order sets to avoid cefoxitin and fluoroquinolone was completed; penicillin allergy assessment and skin testing were implemented concomitantly; increased use of ultraviolet disinfectant strategies for terminal cleaning of CDI patient rooms; increased hand hygiene and personal protection equipment signage, as well as monitoring in high-risk CDI areas; improved diagnostic stewardship by an electronic best practice advisory to reduce inappropriate CDI testing (Turner, 2019)

Conclusion: Our multidisciplinary CDI reduction program has demonstrated significant reductions in CDIs. It is effective, straightforward to implement and monitor, and can be generalized to high-outlier institutions (Turner, 2019). The implementation of such a program has shown to reduce the rate of CDIs from 2016 to 2017. Following changes in accreditation standards many hospitals have now implemented antibiotic stewardship programs to help prevent CDIs. Successful implementation of rapid recognition and isolation, along with rapid testing of patients with potentially infectious diarrhea have led to reduced numbers of cases. Additionally, antibiotic stewardship is defined as, “coordinated interventions designed to improve and measure the appropriate use of [antibiotic] agents” is demonstrated by the nurse through monitoring the patient response to antibiotics and reporting adverse events, educating patients regarding disease process and treatments, and initiating appropriate infection control measures (Eilertsen, 2018).

Works Cited

Primary Article:

Turner, M. C., Behrens, S. L., Webster, W., Huslage, K., Smith, B. A., Wrenn, R., ... Mantyh, C. R. (2019). Multidisciplinary Approach to Clostridium difficile Infection in Adult Surgical Patients. *Journal of the American College of Surgeons*, 228(4), 570-580. <https://doi:10.1016/j.jamcollsurg.2018.12.045>

Secondary Article:

Eilersten, A. B. (2018). Ambulatory Care Nurses' Role in Recognizing and Preventing Clostridium Difficile Infection. *AAACN Viewpoint*, 40(5), 10-11.

Tertiary Article:

Cassir, N., Delaroziere, J., Dubourg, G., Delord, M., Lagier, J., Brouqui, P., ...Fournier, P. E. (2016). A Regional Outbreak of Clostridium difficile PCR-Ribotype 027 Infections in

Southeastern France from a Single Long-Term Care Facility. *Infection Control & Hospital Epidemiology*, 37(11), 1337-1341. [https://doi: 10.1017/ice.2016.164](https://doi:10.1017/ice.2016.164)