

Unit 4: Quality Patient Care
Z-Chapter 22
ONLINE CONTENT (1 H)

Unit Objectives:

- Discuss the use of key indicators to measure performance. (2,3,7)*
- Describe the nurse's role in quality and performance improvement. (3,4,7)*
- Identify tools and processes for continuous quality improvement. (2,3)*

*Course Objectives

Quality Improvement Project
Due February 12, 2024 @ 0800 in the Z-CH # 22 dropbox

Pick one topic from the following list:

1. Improving communication about individual patients during shift change. (shift report)
2. Preventing catheter related infections, urinary or central line.
3. Preventing falls and injuries for patients within healthcare facilities.
4. Preventing pressure ulcers for patients within healthcare facilities.
5. Reducing medication errors.
6. Reducing nurse turnover rates.

Answer the following questions as it relates to the topic pick from the list above.

1. Identify problem areas (or causes) associated with the topic and prioritize each identified problem area. (List at least 3)
 - Introduction of bacteria or viruses into the bloodstream
 - Prolonged catheter use
 - Improper catheter care
 - Improper/lack of hand hygiene
2. Develop solutions for each problem or cause listed. (Provide at least 3)
 - Consistently determine whether catheter needs to still be in place.
 - Provide in-service education on proper catheter care for each type.
 - Routinely assess patient to determine signs of infection.
 - Ensure usage of dressings, locks, caps, and other infection-prevention equipment involving the catheters.
 - Hand hygiene.
3. Identify why these problems might exist.

Improper catheter care may occur when a nurse does not have the appropriate time to adequately provide the care needed to maintain cleanliness. This can also occur if the

facility does not have the proper equipment to care for the catheters. Improper/absence of usage of infection prevention equipment allows bacteria to have easier access to the bloodstream, increasing the infection rate. If hand hygiene is not performed, the bacteria carried from beyond the patient's room is still present. Some nurses may not remember the correct items needed as well as the steps to proper catheter care and need a refresher on the process but may not know where to look to get these reminders.

4. Provide a plan to improve and how to implement the plan. The plan should provide steps for improvement. The implementation should provide a timeline.

The healthcare team can work together to determine if the catheter is still medically necessary, as it may take an interdisciplinary approach to come to a final decision. This decision will need to be re-evaluated daily to allow the team to consistently assess the need of the catheter. In-service education can be provided to the healthcare team as soon as possible, preferably within the first 1-2 weeks, so that infection rates can decline from the start. Another part of the plan that could be implemented would be to get feedback from the staff weekly to determine if there are any areas that could be improved on or see how the plan is working in practice. As the staff members are the one who are hands-on with the plan to reduce these infections, it is important to understand where there are any flaws in the plan and work with the team members to determine where there may need to be more education or other factors to implement. Daily assessments of infection are needed in these patients as well to be able to treat any infection as early as possible. This will really help in those whose bodies are unable to fight infection as easily as others by starting early treatment and preventing further complications.

5. How will you monitor that your plan is effective?

You can conclude whether the plan was effective or not by determining the facility's infection rates for each type of catheter before interventions were implemented and compare these numbers to values collected post-interventions monthly. Speaking with the healthcare team about catheter care and their understanding of catheter care and infections is another way of monitoring effectiveness. If those caring for the patient understand proper care as well as how infection spreads, they will be more prepared to provide the care the patient needs. Communication with the healthcare staff about how the plan is working is another method of determining effectiveness.

Please be prepared to share and discuss your answers in class.

In order to receive full credit (1 H class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety by the assigned due date and time will result in missed class time.

