

**Reducing Hospital Acquired Infections: Quality Improvement**

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Quality improvement is an essential aspect for healthcare workers. The goal of healthcare is to provide the best care for the patients, which requires constant quality improvement. Making changes to care processes, implementing measures to evaluate the effect of these changes, and having an appreciative attitude toward these changes are all essential for quality improvement (QSEN Institute, 2020). Reducing healthcare-acquired infections is essential to providing quality care, and nurses can play a significant role. Reducing healthcare-acquired infections can reduce strain on hospitals and the cost of healthcare for a patient (Haverstick et al., 2017).

### **Article Summary**

This article aimed to implement measures to reduce the number of hospital-acquired infections (Haverstick et al., 2017). Specifically, nurses educated patients on hand hygiene and when to use the hand sanitizer in their rooms (Haverstick et al., 2017). After implementation, the article looked at the rates of hospital-acquired infections, which declined significantly (Haverstick et al., 2017). The patients reported that the staff offered hand sanitizer much more frequently (Haverstick et al., 2017).

### **Introduction**

This article aimed to reduce the number of hospital-acquired infections (Haverstick et al., 2017). This article looks at quality improvement for the patients and the hospital by reducing infections in the patients. Reducing infections will decrease the financial burden on patients and hospitals.

## **Overview**

This article relates to quality improvement by improving the patient's experience because implementing the measures this article sets out makes the patients less likely to get a hospital-acquired infection (Haverstick et al., 2017). This article sets out the knowledge that allows hospitals and nurses to change the care process (QSEN Institute, 2020). Also, this article gives clear measures to evaluate the efficacy of the change (QSEN Institute, 2020).

## **Quality Improvement**

Implementing these quality improvement efforts could in any setting where the patients can correctly use hand sanitizer. Pre-implementation would include ensuring the staff is adequately knowledgeable regarding hand hygiene. Intra-implementation would require staff to educate patients on hand hygiene, and post-implementation would require the hospital to continue to track hospital-acquired infections. Implementing these changes would require minimal financial resources but would make patients and staff happier and safer because there would be fewer hospital-acquired infections.

## **Application to Nursing**

The article demonstrates that implementing hand hygiene education for patients can significantly reduce hospital-acquired infections (Haverstick et al., 2017). Additionally, hand hygiene education requires minimal effort for nurses and patients. Also, reminders from the staff to use hand sanitizer increased throughout the study.

## **Practice**

Hand hygiene is best for healthcare workers to limit infections (Capriotti, 2020). Breaking any link in the chain of infection will prevent infection, and breaking the reservoir chain can be done by using hand sanitizer/washing hands (Capriotti, 2020). When the staff and the patients practice hand hygiene, it helps to create fewer reservoirs for germs to live.

### **Education**

Hospital staff receives annual hand hygiene education (Haverstick et al., 2017). During this education, staff learns when and how to wash their hands. Staff hand sanitizing should be done before and after every patient interaction, and staff should wash their hands when visibly soiled (Haverstick et al., 2017).

### **Research**

The main priority for further study is finding other ways for hospitals to reduce the number of hospital-acquired infections. Approximately one in every twenty-five patients receives a hospital-acquired infection, and approximately 1% of those patients will die from that infection. Reducing hospital-acquired infections will improve the way everyday-people view healthcare and make people more likely to seek healthcare.

### **Conclusion**

Quality improvement is essential for a field like healthcare because it can make staff and patients safer. Making changes to the healthcare processes, finding and enacting measures to assess the changes, and the staff's appreciation of these changes can significantly improve healthcare (QSEN Institute, 2020). Nurses spend much time with the patient, and if nurses and the patients practice hand hygiene, nurses will be much safer throughout their interactions.

Lastly, patients seek healthcare to get healthier; however, one in twenty-five patients will get an infection in the hospital and be sicker than they were in the beginning—a reduction of the one in twenty-five will make patients and staff happier and safer.

## References

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