Healthcare Organization Commitment

Contact Details

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Commitment Details

Commitment Name
Preventing surgical complications with excellent Hand Hygiene

What Patient Safety Challenge does your Commitment address?
Challenge 2A - Hand hygiene

Commitment Start Date
11/11/2013

How Many Hospitals Will This Commitment Represent?

Patient Safety Movement Foundation | patientsafetymovement.org
Commitment Summary
The Combined Surgical Unit (CSU) at Toronto Western Hospital, University Health Network is striving to prevent post surgical infection with excellent hand hygiene. Everyone working in the CSU including surgeons, nurses, allied health team, housekeeping, visitors, and patients will observe the four moments of hand hygiene: Before entering the room, before touching the patient and it's environment, after touching the patient and it's environment, and upon leaving the room.

Commitment Description & Detail
In 2012, the CSUs hand hygiene compliance was between 35-54%. Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA), Clostridium Difficile (C-Diff) were noted. When compliance was reinforced, the unit was noted to be the most improved with an average of 80% by the end of 2012. Now, with monthly audit/monitoring, the unit's average score of hand hygiene is between 96-100%. Hand Hygiene is a patient safety priority at the University Health Network (UHN). UHN a multi-site academic hospital which consists of Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto General Hospital, Toronto Western Hospital, and the Toronto Rehab Hospital. Hand hygiene scores per unit is communicated all through-out the organization. The CSU takes pride in it's prevention of surgical infection through proper hand hygiene.

Action Plan
Education of hand hygiene to prevent surgical infection is continuous. Inservices and posters were used to inform everyone how to observe hand hygiene. On the spot gentle reminders for those who goes in the room or leave the room without washing their hands. Hand sanitizers are strategically placed at the entrance to patients' rooms, by the exit, at the bedside. Monthly hand hygiene results are posted in the unit visible to everyone including visitors, surgeons, allied health, housekeeping, nurses, students, and patients. Every staff reminds others to observe hand hygiene in the unit.

Commitment Timeline
This is continuous even though the CSU has achieved 100% hand hygiene results. UHN is an academic hospital and turnover of students, residents can be a challenge in maintaining 100% score.