

# Let's C-DIFFerence In Our Care

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## PLAN

### Opportunity for Improvement

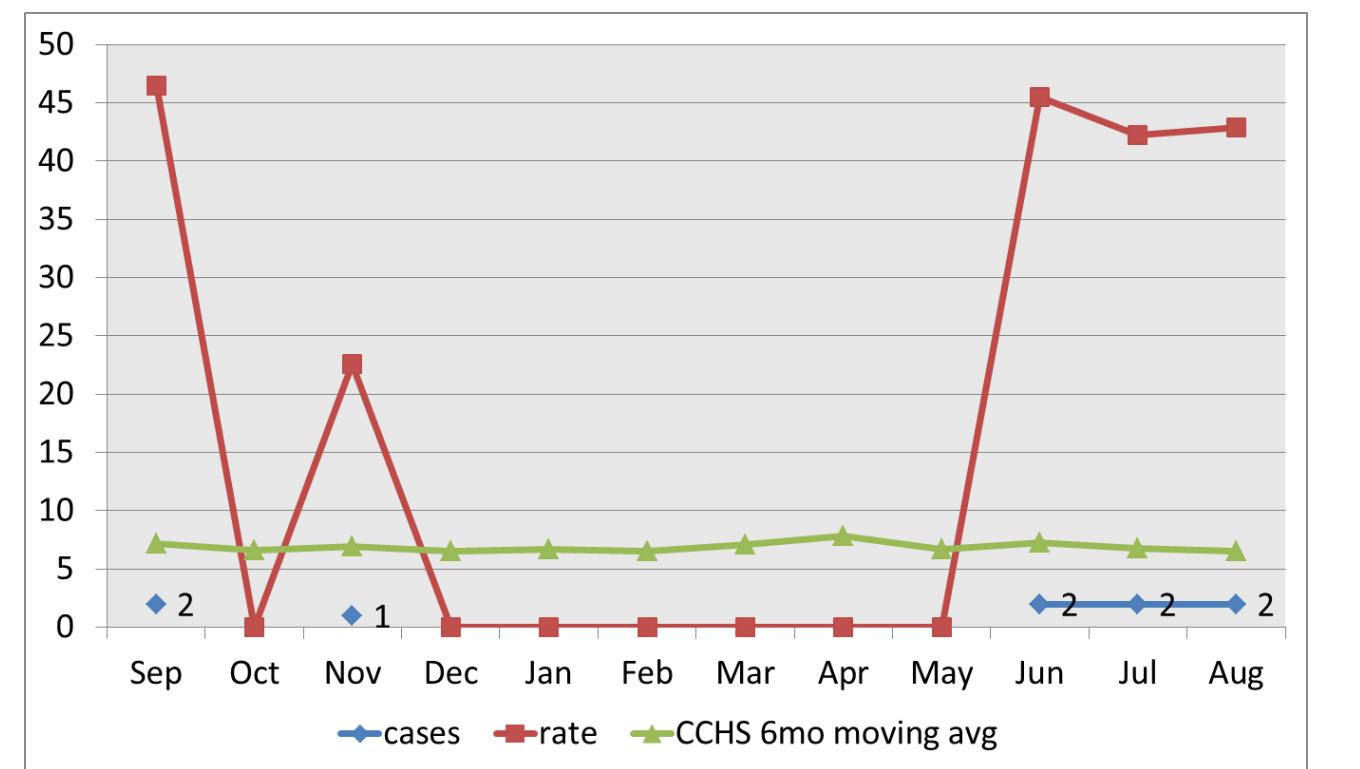
Reduce the prevalence of Clostridium difficile rates by 10% in the Transitional Surgical Unit (TSU) for FY2016

### Background / Current Knowledge

- Clostridium difficile (C. diff) infection rate climbed to 11.42 in Fiscal Year 15 (FY15)
- C. diff is a preventable cause of patient harm
  - Enteric Contact precautions are essential for the prevention of C. diff infections
  - All hospital staff and visitors must use appropriate personal protective equipment and practice proper hand hygiene (no alcohol gel)
  - Advocate for antibiotic stewardship
  - Adequate disinfection and sterilization in C. diff rooms
  - Increased morbidity and mortality rate, longer length of stay, increased risk for recurrence & readmission

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015a). Clostridium difficile infection. Retrieved on September 1, 2015 from [http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cdiff/cdiff\\_infect.html](http://www.cdc.gov/hai/organisms/cdiff/cdiff_infect.html).

Center for Disease Control and Prevention. (2015b). Healthcare infection control practices advisory committee. <https://www.cdc.gov/hicpac/index.html>



### Key Outcomes / Goals

- Decrease HA CDI rate by 10% in twelve months
- Increase level of awareness around C. diff testing, illness, and care of the C. diff patient



## DO

### Action Plan: Solutions Implemented

- Collaboration with Environmental Services and Infection Control
- Use of Ultraviolet light (Tru-D) for all terminal cleans
- Individual education with all TSU staff
- Education for all patients, families, and visitors
- Smart C. diff testing guidelines, emphasized with all providers
- Revitalized hand hygiene surveillance
- Strict adherence to enteric contact precautions for all rooms with suspected or confirmed HA CDI

### Environmental Services Partnership

#### What is Tru-D?

- Ultraviolet light that provides expansive bactericidal effects
- Utilized Tru-D on every room within TSU to start
- Continued usage of Tru-D on every C. Diff infected room at that patients transfer or discharge

### Smart C. diff Testing Guidelines

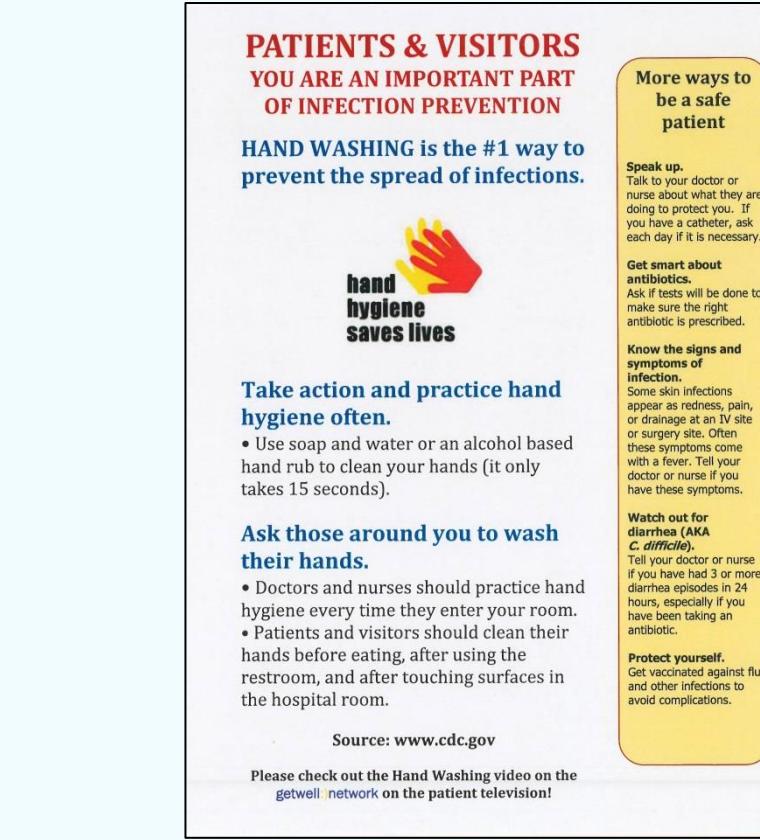
- Hospital days 1-3
  - Nurse-driven specimen collection and call to physician
  - Appropriate infection prevention interventions and treatment of the patient
- After hospital day 3
  - Nursing assessment communicated to physician
    - Amount of diarrhea, fever abdominal pain, WBC
    - Patient on antibiotics
    - Patient on laxatives
    - Patient with prior hx of C. diff
    - Duration of hospitalization
- If deemed possible / probably C. diff
  - Appropriate infection prevention interventions and treatment

### Level of Awareness Enhanced by TSU Quality & Safety Council

In late August, 2015, staff education provided using different modalities to engage the adult learner (powerpoint, team meetings, bulletin boards, flyers)

- Proper hand hygiene (using soap vs. hand sanitizer) compliance
- Maintaining proper isolation precautions for enteric illness
- Appropriate disinfection and cleaning of room & equipment
- Smart C. diff testing guidelines enforced
- Patient, family, and visitor education flyer included in welcome packet
- Signage placed around the unit

### Flyers in Welcome Packets

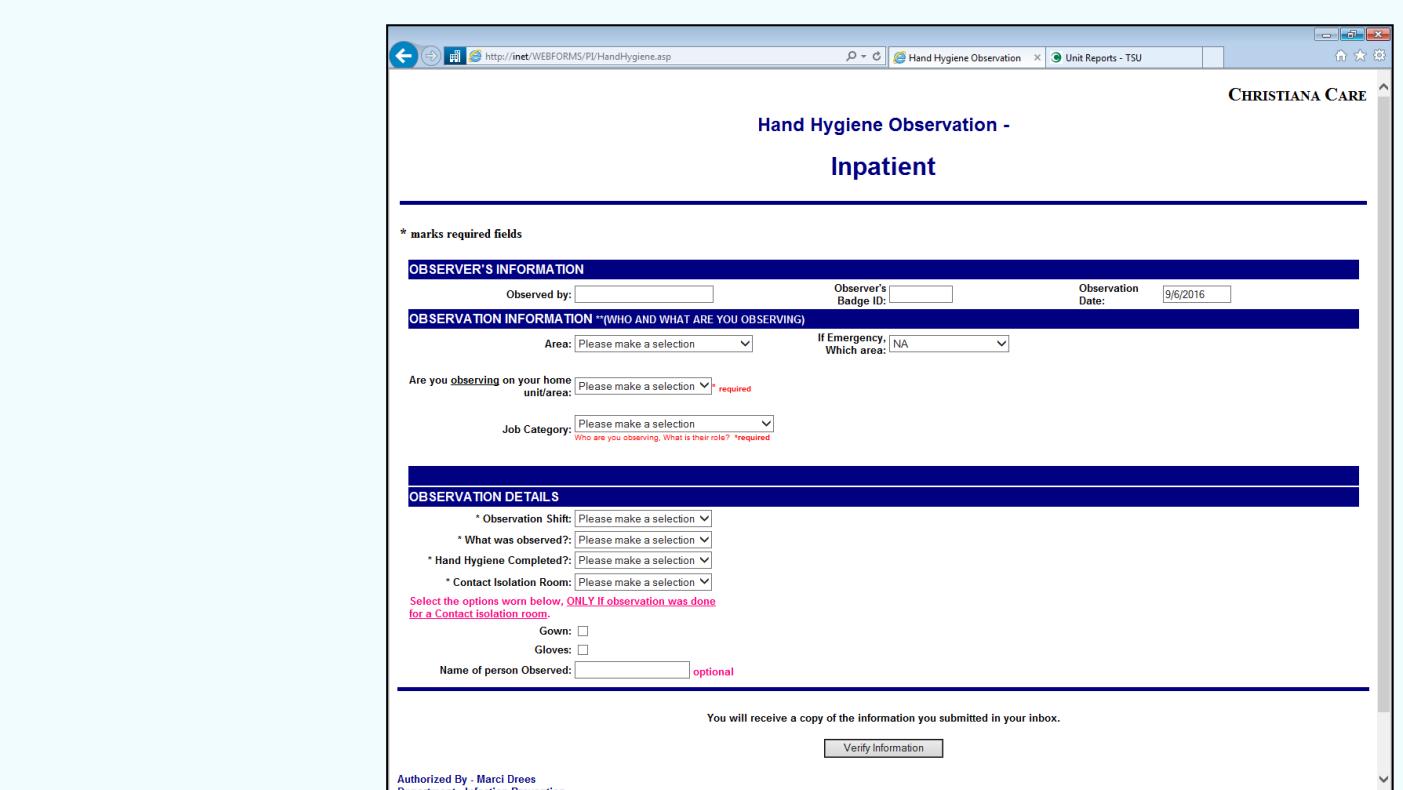


### Signage reminders for proper hand hygiene and PPE

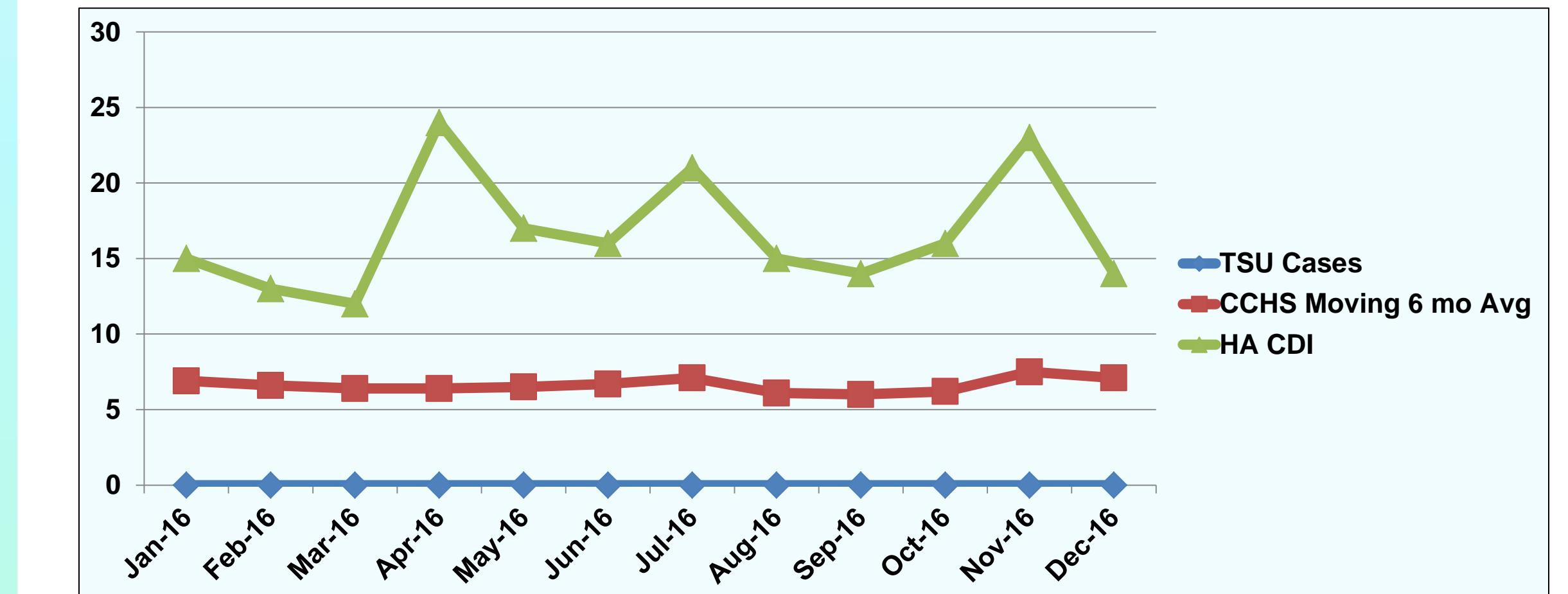
- "Do Not Use" signs on alcohol-based sanitizers within surrounding area of infected patient's room
- Correct usage of Enteric Isolation Precaution signage



### Ongoing surveillance of proper hand hygiene, use of appropriate PPE



## CHECK



- In alignment with Christiana Care's AOP Goal of Optimal Health, the targeted reduction of HA CDI to decrease patient harm
- The unit goal was to decrease C. diff rates by 10% in TSU; year-to-date from implementation was 100% HA CDI-free. FY15=11.42 VS FY16=7.05
- The goal was well surpassed, achieving a rate of Zero

## TWELVE MONTHS C.DIFF-FREE!!!

### Path Forward / Next Steps

- Biannual re-education of current staff and the incorporation of this education in TSU new employee orientation.
- Ongoing monitoring of all measures implemented by the Quality and Safety Council on a monthly basis and daily by leadership team
- Sharing successes with other units in the organization

### Lessons Learned

- Identify key stakeholders at the start of the project
- Multimodal strategies are most effective in combination to achieve success in identifying and applying detailed solutions to complex problems
- Vigilance of surveillance is pinnacle in sustaining success and managing competing priorities
- Interdisciplinary approaches provide a multi-pronged effort