**Problem Statement**

Patients undergoing joint replacement surgery are often not prepared for care at home before surgery. This leads to poor self care and increased infection. Baylor Medical Center at Irving had a high percentage of surgical site infections in 2006.

**Objective**

The educational preoperative program for joint replacement patients and their families is aimed at reducing surgical site infection (SSI) rates.

**Methods/Measurement**

- Developed weekly preoperative joint replacement educational program in 2007 for patients and their families.
- Educational program developed in collaboration with the orthopedic surgeons, infection control, lab, pharmacy, physical medicine and nursing.
- Irving Orthopedics and Sports Medicine surgeons send 100% of elective preoperative joint replacement patients to the mandatory educational program.
- Patients and families are introduced to the nursing and ancillary staff who will provide post-operative care.
- Nasal Methicillin Resistant Staph Aureus (MRSA) screening process completed prior to class.
- Patients who test positive for MRSA are required to complete the decolonization process per protocol.
- Experienced orthopedic staff nurses are trained as patient educators for the program.

**Results/Outcomes**

**Sustainability and Spread**

- The preoperative joint replacement educational program is currently in its fourth year.
- 100% attendance of all elective joint replacement patients and families has been sustained since its implementation.
- Increased orthopedic nurse participation as patient educators.
- Reduce the number of surgical site infections among hip and knee elective joint replacement surgeries.
- Patients and their families are better prepared to go home, thus increasing patient satisfaction.
- The educational program model extended to other surgical areas such as colorectal surgery.

**Conclusions and Lessons Learned**

- Patients and families understand expectations for early ambulation, pain control after surgery, caring for wounds and dressings and completing activities of daily living after discharge.
- Patients and their families understand their role in prevention of surgical site infections after joint replacement surgery.
- Decrease in surgical site infections after hip and knee replacements since 2007.
- Increased collaboration between Orthopedic surgeons, physician assistants, nursing staff, patients and families with a special focus on prevention of potential complications.