Improving the Flow
Decreasing Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs)

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**PURPOSE**
To address the Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goal of reducing CAUTIs within the hospital, with the ultimate goal of “Getting to ZERO”

**RELEVANCE/SIGNIFICANCE**
- The presence of an indwelling urinary catheter places patients at increased risk for catheter-associated urinary tract infections
- 80% of hospital-acquired urinary tract infections are caused by the use of an indwelling urinary catheter (Carle et al. 2013)

**CAUTIs:**
- Most common healthcare-associated infection (Hulka, 2018)
- Can cost an average of $1,000 per CAUTI related to:
  - Potential increased length of stay
  - Non-reimbursement by Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (Meddings et al., 2012)

**STRATEGY**
- Formed interdisciplinary CAUTI Committee which reviewed and evaluated:
  - Historical urinary catheter infection rates
  - Current literature regarding best practice
  - Existing urinary catheter products
  - Clinical processes related to catheter insertion, maintenance, and removal
  - Staff education needs
  - Methods to assess compliance with implemented “Getting to ZERO” initiatives

**IMPLEMENTATION OF CAUTI PREVENTION INITIATIVES**
- Instituted new urinary catheter insertion kit including:
  - Closed catheter drainage system
  - StatLock® securement device
- Revised urinary catheter policy to:
  - Define catheter care
  - Standardize use of castile soap for cleaning catheter
- Developed nurse driven protocol with support from physician champions
- Conducted educational rounds in clinical areas
- Integrated education into orientation, competency, and ongoing learning

**EVALUATION**
- 93.5% reduction in CAUTI rates from 2011 to 2015
- Reduction translates to:
  - Lowered morbidity and mortality
  - Decreased length of stay
  - Prevented discharge delays
  - Potential cost savings of $86,000

**SURVEILLANCE TOOL**

**PROTOCOL**

**FUTURE IMPLICATIONS**
- Increase use of bladder scanner
- Develop protocol for urinary elimination management post-catheter
- Explore additional options for non-invasive male and female urinary catheters

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