

Preventing Healthcare-Associated Infections

Healthcare-associated infections (HAI) are a threat to patient safety. The prevention and reduction of healthcare-associated infections is a top priority for us. Types of infections:

In-hospital Fall with Fracture

Falls resulting in injury are a prevalent patient safety problem. Elderly and frail patients with fall risk factors are not the only ones who are vulnerable to falling in health care facilities. Any patient of any age or physical ability can be at risk for a fall due to physiological changes due to a medical condition, medications, surgery, procedures, or diagnostic testing that can leave them weakened or confused. Here are some statistics about falls in health care facilities. Every year in the United States, hundreds of thousands of patients fall in hospitals, with 30-50 percent resulting in injury. Injured patients require additional treatment and sometimes prolonged hospital stays. In one study, a fall with injury added 6.3 days to the hospital stay.

Post-operative Sepsis

Sepsis — a severe reaction in response to an infection — is a top cause of death in hospitalized patients that costs the health care system at least \$41 billion each year. It typically affects 1.7 million U.S. patients yearly, with about 270,000 of those cases resulting in death. Early recognition and effective treatment of sepsis not only saves lives but also frees up scarce resources and dollars that hospitals need for staff or to rebuild services and infrastructure. (Source: Joint Commission.)

We have implemented the following actions to keep you safe and to reduce incidence of infections and injury:

- Urinary catheters are only used when medically necessary
- Alternatives to urinary catheters are encouraged
- Daily review of urinary catheters to determine if still medically appropriate
- Specially trained nurses to place urinary catheters
- Hourly rounding to ensure patient needs are met and environment is free of obstacles
- Leader rounding on high risk fall patients
- Bed alarms for high risk fall patients

Nothing is more important to us than you. Thank you for helping us put safety FIRST.

