Educating ICU Nurses on External Catheter Usage to Prevent CAUTIs

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BACKGROUND

Catheter-associated urinary Tract Infections (CAUTIs) are among the most common hospital-acquired infections that lead to poor-quality health outcomes, increased hospital costs, prolonged hospitalization, morbidity, and mortality.[4] ICU patients are at high risk for getting CAUTIs.[4,1] The risk of getting CAUTI increases with unnecessary indwelling Foley catheter placement.[1] External urinary catheters and other alternatives will significantly decrease the CAUTI rates.[3]

- Lack of education about external urinary catheters leads to increased use of indwelling Foley catheters.
- Educating the ICU staff on the importance of using external urinary catheters and alternatives will decrease CAUTIs.[7]

METHODS

The **Model for Evidence-Based Practice Change** was used to guide this project.[4]

- Step 1 Assessing the need for change in practice
- Step 2 Locating the best evidence
- Step 3 Critically analyzing the evidence
- Step 4 Designing practice change
- Step 5 Implementing and evaluating change in practice
- Step 6 Integrating and maintaining change in practice

Deliverables:

1. PowerPoint Presentation
2. Posters & Bulletin Board Display
3. Pre- and Post-Survey Evaluation
4. Handout
5. Brochure
6. In-service Training

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INTERVENTIONS

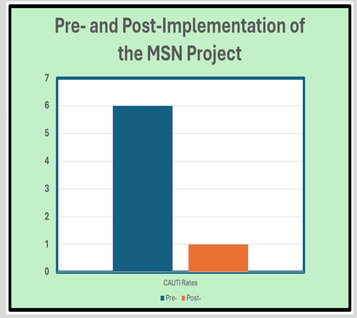
Interventions, actions and/or performances to take to make this project a reality:

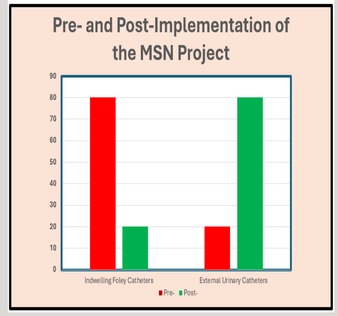
- Step 1 Meetings with stakeholders
- Step 2 Distribution of pre-evaluation survey questionnaires
- Step 3 Presentation of deliverables
- Step 4 In-service training and pass-off skills
- Step 5 Monthly audit of CAUTIs, utilization of indwelling and external urinary catheters
- Step 6 Distribution of post-evaluation survey questionnaires
- Step 7 Final meeting and presentation with all the stakeholders

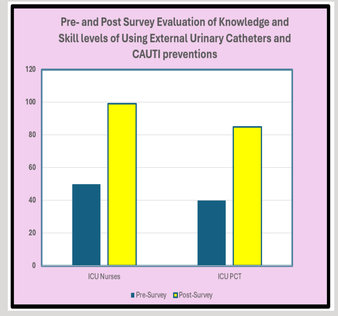
IMPACTS

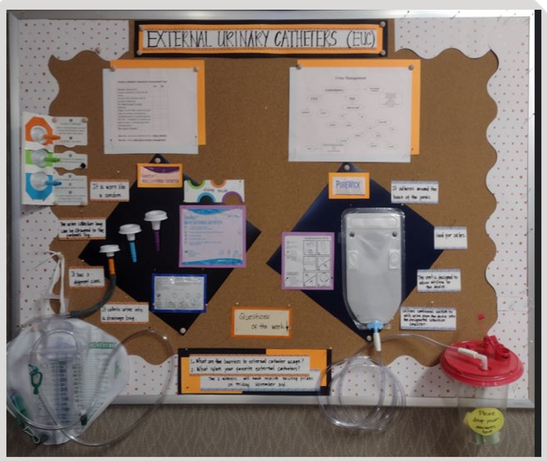
Educating staff about CAUTI prevention and the importance of utilizing external urinary catheters and other alternatives has a significant impact to:

- Reduce CAUTI rates
- Decrease the use of indwelling urinary catheters
- Increase the use of external urinary catheters
- Increase knowledge and skills of staff using the external urinary catheters
- Encourage staff to advocate for patients by using the external urinary catheters first.









External Urinary Catheters Bulletin Board Display

CONCLUSIONS

- Unnecessary placement of indwelling Foley catheters in the ICU puts patients at high risk for CAUTIs or Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections.
- Patients with CAUTIs can lead to severe health outcomes, increased costs, prolonged hospitalization, and increased morbidity and mortality.[5]
- Using external urinary catheters and other alternative methods can effectively prevent and decrease CAUTIs. [2,6]
- Educating the ICU nurses and patient care technicians on the importance of preventing CAUTIs, and the use of external urinary catheters will reduce CAUTI rates, decrease the use of indwelling Foley catheters, and increase utilization of external urinary catheters.[7]