Taking the Difficulty Out of C. Diff Prevention Using the Bundle Approach

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Introduction
Clostridium Difficile Infections (CDI) are a significant patient safety issue for healthcare organizations, impacting morbidity and mortality. Prevention of Healthcare Onset Clostridium Difficile Infections (HOCDI) transmission has quickly become a top priority for most organizations throughout the nation.

Purpose
In an effort to decrease the number of HOCDIs within our organization, an interprofessional team collaborated to develop a CDI Prevention Bundle.

Method
The CDI Prevention Bundle contains specific interventions to address:
- Patient screening on admission and/or when symptoms first appear
- Appropriate and timely disinfection of the environment, equipment and supplies
- Patient/family education in CDI transmission prevention, and
- Hand hygiene practices.

An inpatient nursing unit was selected to pilot the bundle to ensure that it could be easily integrated into the daily workflows of the nursing staff and was agreeable to patients and their families.

Process adjustments and bundle modifications occurred over several months after interventions were tried.

Implications
As with all bundles, this CDI Bundle is multi-faceted and multi-tiered. The ultimate goal of the bundle was to: (1) standardize CDI transmission prevention throughout the organization; and ultimately (2) realize a decrease in HOCDI rates. With modifications to the bundle taking place over the entire 2016 fiscal year, more time is needed to determine if utilizing the CDI bundle aided in meeting our objective. Recent data, however, shows promising results that, if continued, will move us closer to our target – no HOCDIs.

Conclusion
The process of creating a CDI Bundle provided an opportunity for many disciplines within the organization to work together towards a valuable goal, keeping patients safe from harm during their hospitalization. Collaboration between physicians, infection prevention specialists, environmental services, hospital administration, and nursing resulted in a plan and process that will hopefully continue to impact the length of stay, mortality, and satisfaction of our patients.

Team Members
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References