Network 8 HAI LAN
Healthcare Acquired Infections Learning & Action Network
On the road to reduction

On the Road to Reducing Infections

Network 8 HAI LAN Newsletter October 2013

Recap of September 19 Webinar – Preventing Bloodstream Infections (BSIs) in Dialysis Patients

Network 8's HAI LAN was privileged to have Priti Patel, MD, MPH, present a webinar on "Preventing Bloodstream Infections in Dialysis Patients". Dr. Patel serves as the Dialysis Activity Leader within the Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion with the CDC. Dr. Patel discussed the CDC's approach to BSI prevention in dialysis facilities. The specific interventions addressed are summarized below, and can be found on the CDC website by clicking here.

1. **Surveillance and feedback using NHSN**
   Conduct monthly surveillance for BSIs and other dialysis events using CDC's National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN).
2. **Hand hygiene observations**
   Perform observations of hand hygiene opportunities monthly and share results with clinical staff.
3. **Catheter/vascular access care observations**
   Perform observations of vascular access care and catheter accessing quarterly.
4. **Staff education and competency**
   Train staff on infection control topics, including access care and aseptic technique. A free CEU course, titled "Infection Prevention in Dialysis Settings", is available on the CDC website.
5. **Patient education/engagement**
   Provide standardized education to all patients on infection prevention topics including vascular access care, hand hygiene, and risks related to catheter use.
6. **Catheter reduction**
   Incorporate efforts to reduce catheters by identifying and addressing barriers to permanent vascular access placement and catheter removal.
7. **Chlorhexidine for skin antisepsis**
   Use an alcohol-based chlorhexidine (>0.5%) solution as the first line skin antiseptic agent for central line insertion and during dressing changes.
8. **Catheter hub disinfection**
   Scrub the catheter hubs with an appropriate antiseptic after cap is removed and before accessing. Perform every time catheter is accessed or disconnected.
9. **Antimicrobial ointment**
   Apply antibiotic ointment or povidone-iodine ointment to catheter exit sites during dressing change.

Bloodstream Infection Facts

Obtained from the CDC

- Infections (including those affecting bloodstream) are the second leading cause of death among dialysis patients.
- During dialysis, infections like Hepatitis B and C and bloodstream infections are spread from patient to patient most commonly by the hands of healthcare workers.
- The CDC estimates that 37,000 central line-associated bloodstream infections may have occurred in U.S. hemodialysis patients in 2008.
- Rates of bloodstream infections in patients with central catheters are about 8 times that seen in patients with fistulas.

A Word from the Tennessee Department of Health

Dr. Marion Kainer, MD, MPH & Meredith Kanago, MSPH

As you may be aware, healthcare-associated infections related to outpatient dialysis [in Tennessee] are reportable to CMS and the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH) as of October 2012. The healthcare-associated infections (HAI) team here at TDH has been working with NHSN for many years, and is more than happy to share our expertise and assist facilities with reporting of dialysis events through this system.

In order to further assist facilities with infection control, TDH uses our access to NHSN data to monitor trends in infection rates for identifying potential clusters of HAIs in both inpatient and outpatient healthcare settings in Tennessee. For this reason, if we notice an un-

A Word from the Tennessee Department of Health *continued*

usual increase in dialysis events at your facility, we may contact your facility over the phone, along with a representative of Network 8. As we are not a regulatory group, these phone calls are merely meant to determine if there is any assistance we can provide to help bring your facility's infection rate down. Please keep in mind that these are primarily educational opportunities – again, our main goal is to assist you in keeping patients safe.

Additionally, TDH will soon begin looking at dialysis event data each month to check whether it is complete and free of common reporting errors. Each facility's data entry contact person (whom we will identify with the help of Network 8) will receive a monthly quality report containing either a summary of errors, or indicating that their data is complete. These reports will also alert you to potential issues that may prevent your data from being properly transmitted to CMS. Be on the lookout for the first of these reports in late 2013 or early 2014.

Remember: the TDH HAI team is here to help you! You can reach us anytime at HAI.Health@tn.gov, or by phone at 615-741-7247. We appreciate all your hard work, and we look forward to working with you in the future to keep Tennessee dialysis patients safe.

New Tools from the CDC

Obtained from the CDC

The CDC has created a video for frontline dialysis staff that conveys best practices for preventing bloodstream and other infections in hemodialysis outpatients. A poster for staff and pocket guides for patients were also developed. Links to these resources and a brief description of each are listed below.

Provider Training Video:

Preventing Bloodstream Infections in Outpatient Hemodialysis Patients: Best Practices for Dialysis Staff

This video contains five segments with best practices on how to prevent infection in patients with catheters, fistulas or grafts. It also includes segments on hand hygiene and glove use and dialysis station disinfection. The video is about 11 minutes long. The video is intended to be used by outpatient hemodialysis facilities as an educational tool to help remind their frontline staff, including technicians and nurses, about infection prevention measures. It can be used as an orientation video for new staff and as an annual in-service training tool to remind staff of proper protocols.

Provider Poster:

Put Together the Pieces to Prevent Infections in Dialysis Patients

This 11x17 wall poster is a visual reminder of measures that staff can take to reduce infection in dialysis patients. The elements include Engage Patients, Reduce Catheters, Perform Hand Hygiene and Change Gloves, Catheter Care, Vaccinate Staff and Patients, Disinfect the Dialysis Station, Track Infections, Follow Safe Injection Practices, and Use Aseptic Technique. The poster can be posted in staff lounges or on the treatment floor to serve as a reminder of the messages in the video and other important ways to prevent infections.

Patient Pocket Guide:

6 Tips to Prevent Dialysis Infections

This small, two-sided guide outlines six tips to prevent dialysis infections for patients with catheters (side A) and six tips to prevent dialysis infections for patients with fistulas or grafts (side B). Helpful images accompany each tip. The patient pocket guide is intended to educate patients on ways they can help prevent infections and can be shared as part of an information packet or reviewed with them by clinical staff.

If you would like to order any of these materials, you can visit the CDC website by clicking here.

Additional Resources

CDC Infection Prevention Tools
CDC Dialysis Bloodstream Infection Prevention Collaborative
Network 8 HAI LAN Web Page