



Presentation Abstract

Session: Quality Management Systems/Process Improvement/Adverse Outcomes

Tuesday, July 13, 2010, 11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Presentation: Patient and Environmental Service employee satisfaction and tolerance of using germicidal bleach wipes for patient room cleaning to reduce transmission of *Clostridium difficile* infection

Location: Exhibit Hall I-1

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Biography: Kimberly Aronhalt graduated from the University of Evansville, Ind., with a BSN in 1977. She started her career as an RN with Mayo Clinic Rochester. She has worked in multiple clinical areas during her nursing career. Prior to working in Infection Prevention and Control, she worked in Home Parenteral patient education. She is presently studying for a Master of Arts in Nursing at Augsburg College, Minn. Kimberly is a member of APIC and is currently working as an Infection Preventionist with the Mayo Clinic Infection Prevention and Control Department. Her focus areas include MDRO's, *C. difficile*, ambulatory practice, prevention of catheter-associated urinary tract infections, and cardiac catheter lab.

Abstract:

ISSUE

Attempts to control *Clostridium difficile* infection (CDI) have focused on patient and environmental factors. Because *C. difficile* spores can persist in the environment for many months and are resistant to the usual cleaning and disinfection measures, more healthcare institutions are using bleach products that are sporicidal. There may be patient and employee concerns about the appearance of residue left on surfaces, odors and respiratory tract irritation. One aim of this quality improvement project was to assess patient and Environmental Service employee (ESE) satisfaction and tolerance of daily and terminal patient room cleaning using germicidal bleach wipes.

PROJECT

A quality improvement (QI) project to reduce transmission of CDI was implemented on two high-incident CDI medical patient care units. ESE were trained in the use of **Clorox® ultra germicidal bleach wipes** (6.15% – 5200 ppm active chlorine), for daily and terminal patient room cleaning of all rooms on these units. A survey was administered to patients and ESE to assess satisfaction and tolerance of the bleach product. Patients were surveyed both before (n=51) and monthly (n=31) during germicidal bleach use over a five-month period. ESE were surveyed both before the project (n=8) and at four months (n=3) and five months (n=3) during germicidal bleach use for room cleaning.

RESULTS

At baseline, a majority (90.2 %) of patients reported being very satisfied with how well their rooms were cleaned using the standard hospital disinfectant. In comparison, 94.1 % of patients reported being very satisfied with how well their rooms were cleaned when germicidal bleach was used. Most (67.6 %) patients were in their rooms while ESE cleaned with bleach wipes, and of those only a few (8.8 %) noticed odor with the germicidal bleach used for cleaning. None of these patients found the odor bothersome. ESE reported less satisfaction and more respiratory irritation and needed reassurance of their safety and potential mitigating strategies.

LESSONS LEARNED

Ultra germicidal bleach wipes seemed to be well tolerated by patients surveyed, even if present during cleaning. ESE reported less tolerance. Mitigation of employee concerns is important for employee satisfaction, retention and the compliance with recommended cleaning practices. This QI project should be duplicated with other patient populations and ESE to validate findings and strategize solutions.

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Disclosures:

K. Aronhalt, None.