
Abstract:

Economic Impact of a Dedicated Nurse Champion in Reducing Catheter Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSIs)

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A 19 bed surgical intensive care unit (SICU) in an academic medical center had a CLABSI rate of 5.5/1000 central line (CL) days from July 2009-June 2010 which when compared to the National Healthcare Safety Network (NHSN) benchmark of 2.3, placed them in the 90th percentile of reporting SICUs. Best practices including use of a standardized central line cart, full sterile barrier precautions at insertion, completion of a CL insertion checklist by inserter and observing nurse, and the use of chlorhexidine impregnated sponges for the dressings had been fully implemented. Based on high patient acuity, as reflected by an average acute physiological assessment and chronic health evaluation (APACHE) score of 58 (national SICU average is 50) and a CL utilization ratio in the NHSN 90th percentile, staff felt that the NHSN benchmark was not achievable.