Reduction in Possible Healthcare-Acquired Clostridium difficile Infections After Implementing Control Measures

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Background:

Clostridium difficile-associated diarrhea (CDAD) is a major problem in healthcare settings. It is spread through contact with the hands of infected people or contaminated environmental surfaces.

Methods:

Control Measures:

1. Infection Control monitored cases to assure a C.diff patient was moved to another room if precautions were discontinued so the room could be thoroughly disinfected.
2. Implemented a precaution room cleaning checklist for housekeeping.
3. Implemented a precaution sign which highlighted the need for handwashing versus alcohol hand rub, since alcohol will not kill spores.
4. Developed new precaution signs indicating the need for handwashing rather than alcohol hand rub.
5. Reported C.difficile data to monthly meetings of nursing leadership.
6. Assured that all surgical prophylaxis was discontinued and treatment was completed before a patient was moved to another room so terminal disinfection could be completed.
7. Assured that curtains were changed regularly and that a cleaning schedule was established for each environment, including post-op holding area, recovery room and intensive care unit.
8. Infection Control Liaisons served as a communication system for unit-based infection control.

Results:

From January through April 2005 there were 28 cases of CDAD for 10,000 orthopedic procedures done a year.

Conclusions:

In reducing the number of possible healthcare-associated infections with Clostridium difficile.

References: