

Nurse-driven initiatives decrease infections



(From left) Infection Prevention Program Coordinator Paige Dyjack, MPH, BSN, RN; Uyen Le, BSN, RN, RNBCM; and peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) nurse Roy Coloma, BSN, RN, VABC, RNBCM, discuss correct catheterization techniques.

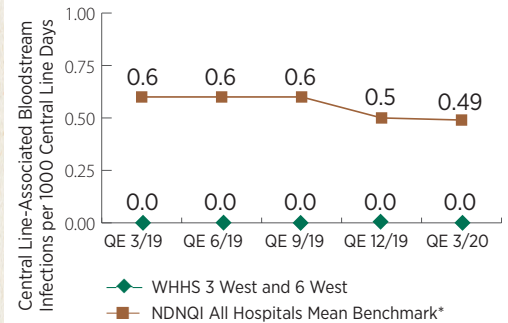
Everyone at Washington Hospital focuses their work around the Patient First Ethic, which means they are committed to patient safety and quality care. Preventing hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) — especially catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) and central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) — is high on the list of priorities for clinical nurses.

To prevent infections, the Quality Improvement Council collaborated with nursing and infection prevention leadership to develop “CAUTI and CLABSI bundles.” The group’s goal was to reduce these infection rates to zero.

The basic elements of these CAUTI and CLABSI bundles include inserting catheters and central lines only when necessary, correct techniques for insertion and maintenance, and removal when no longer clinically indicated. Implementation of the bundles included work groups, training unit-based champions, and an audit process to ensure success.

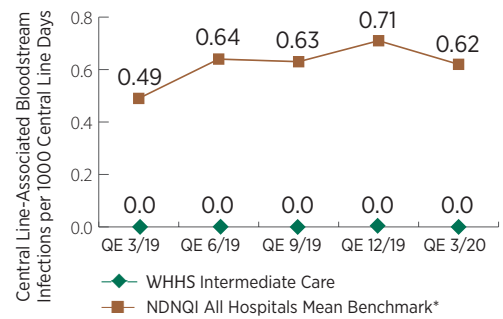
The process is monitored on a daily basis and results are reported quarterly. These nurse-driven quality improvement initiatives have led to Washington Hospital’s CAUTI and CLABSI results consistently outperforming other hospitals nationwide.

Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections at Washington Hospital Medical-Surgical Units Compared to NDNQI Benchmark (Lower is Better)



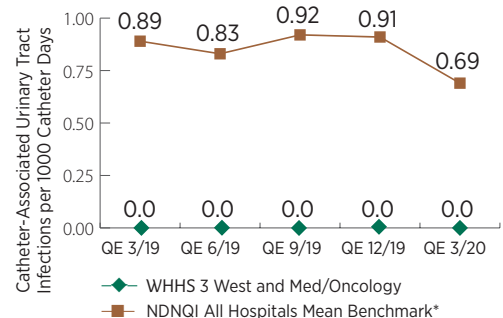
None of the patients on our Medical-Surgical Units had a central line-associated bloodstream infection which is better than hospitals nationwide.

Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections at Washington Hospital Intermediate Care Unit Compared to NDNQI Benchmark (Lower is Better)



We had zero central line-associated bloodstream infections on our Intermediate Care Unit which is outstanding compared to U.S. benchmarks.

Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infections at Washington Hospital Medical-Surgical Units Compared to NDNQI Benchmark (Lower is Better)



Not one patient on our 3 West or Med/Oncology Unit acquired a catheter-associated urinary tract infection — an exceptional result.

*NDNQI = National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators.