Reduction of Risk from Bacterial Transmission in the Emergency Department through Implementation of Standardized EKG machine cleaning protocols: An Evidence-Based Approach.

Roz N. Bidad
UVM, Roz.Bidad@uvmhealth.org

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/cnhscnl

Part of the Nursing Commons

Recommended Citation
https://scholarworks.uvm.edu/cnhscnl/1

This Project is brought to you for free and open access by the College of Nursing and Health Sciences at ScholarWorks @ UVM. It has been accepted for inclusion in College of Nursing and Health Sciences Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL) Project Publications by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks @ UVM. For more information, please contact donna.omalley@uvm.edu.
Reduction of Risk from Bacterial Transmission in the Emergency Department through Implementation of Standardized EKG machine cleaning protocols: An Evidence-Based Approach

Roz Bidad, BSN, RN
Stuart Whitney, EdD, RN, CNL
Amanda Young, BSN, RN
Acknowledgements

• I declare that there are no relationships, conditions, or circumstances that present a conflict of interest relevant to the content of this presentation
Introduction — Problem

• Nosocomial infections are associated with increased length of hospital stay, costing an estimated $6.7 billion per year.

• Numerous studies have shown that non-critical devices, such as EKG machines can be contaminated with pathogens.

• The Emergency Department (ED) is a complex and dynamic environment.

• There is no policy in place for the cleaning of this piece of equipment.
Available Knowledge

- Despite an increased focus on infection prevention, little research exists on decreasing bacterial transmission from medical equipment to patients in an emergency department setting.
Rationale

- Many ED patients come in to contact with EKG machines. Assumptions used to develop the intervention
- Essential that machines are clean and free from bacteria in order to avoid the spread of infection
- Current lack of policy for cleaning of high use medical equipment in the Emergency Department.
Purpose & Aims

The aims of this project are:

- Establish baseline data on type and amount of bacterial presence on EKG machines, and compliance with cleaning of machines between use
- Determine if feedback to staff on their compliance of cleaning EKGs after each use alters practice
- Establish an Emergency Medicine policy for the cleaning of medical equipment
- Implement a sustainable change to the daily practice in the Emergency Department that will improve the quality of care patients receive
Methods — Context

• The Emergency Department at The University of Vermont Medical Center is a 45-bed unit
• Level One Trauma Center serving Vermont and upstate New York.
• Sees an average of 60,000 patients a year
• Performs an average of 1,230 EKGs per month using five Mortara EKG machines.
• The clinical staff who perform EKGs are limited to nurses and emergency medical technicians.
• Currently no formal policy in place for cleaning EKG machines
• Clinical expectation is they are cleaned after each use using Oxivir wipes.
Intervention(s)

One
• Machines swabbed by Infection Prevention

Two
• EMRAP audit of cleaning

Three
• Clinical Staff receive compliance results

Four
• Repeat audit

Five
• 2nd swabbing of machines

Six
• A routine cleaning schedule will be implemented

Seven
• 3rd swabbing of machines

Eight
• Random audits for sustainability
Study of the Intervention(s)

• The interventions proposed will be measured by:
  • comparing bacterial levels and type from
    – baseline results
    – post staff feedback
    – following the establishment of a cleaning schedule
    – At one and two-month post interventions,
  • Compliance with the cleaning of EKG machines between each patient use.
Measures

• Adherence to current cleaning expectations and cleaning practices throughout study interventions will be measured by EMRAP personnel.

• The bacterial load and type will be obtained by infection prevention staff at the University of Vermont Medical Center. In order to provide 95% power in detecting a change in cleaning compliance, a sample size of 300 EKGs will be required.
Analysis

- Statistical analysis for changes in compliance will be compared using a chi square test. Bacterial load will be measured using a two-sample t-test.
Ethical Considerations

- Minimal risk
- Hawthorne effect
- Patient Privacy
- Anonymity of clinical staff
Results

Initial swabbing (2/12)

Swab results obtained and disseminated (2/20)

Cleaning campaign initiated

Re-swabbing of machines (3/25)

Swab results obtained and disseminated (3/27)

Cleaning campaign continued
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EKG Cart</th>
<th>Swab Location</th>
<th>Colony Forming Units (CFUs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cart 10</td>
<td>Plug</td>
<td>2 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>13 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>31 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 20</td>
<td>Plug</td>
<td>0 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>11 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>57 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 16</td>
<td>Plug and Staff</td>
<td>112 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>TNTC*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>Data Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 19</td>
<td>Plug</td>
<td>Data Not Available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>2 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>45 CFUs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EKG Cart</th>
<th>Swab Location</th>
<th>Colony Forming Units (CFUs)</th>
<th>Net difference (CFUs)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cart 10</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>14 CFUs</td>
<td>-19 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>1 CFU</td>
<td>-12 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 20</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>43 CFUs</td>
<td>-14 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>23 CFUs</td>
<td>+12 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 13</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>14 CFUs</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>13 CFUs</td>
<td>Data not available</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cart 19</td>
<td>Staff</td>
<td>24 CFUs</td>
<td>-21 CFUs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Patient</td>
<td>0 CFUs</td>
<td>-2 CFUs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Discussion

- Number of unanticipated events.
- Baseline swabs of the EKG machines were able to be obtained, however bacterial type was not determined, nor was a baseline level of cleaning compliance.
- Because a baseline level of cleaning compliance was not obtained, it is not possible to make a quantitative determination on whether feedback to clinical staff had a direct effect on cleaning practices.
- Table 2 indicates that all but one of the swabs saw a decrease in number of colony forming units (CFUs) in the second round of swabs.
- Working in tandem with Cardiology and Infection Prevention, a revision to the hospital's current policy titled; Infection Prevention Practices-Cleanliness of the Environment and Equipment is pending to include EKG machines.
- It has been determined that a daily cleaning of the EKG machines will be incorporated into the everyday operations of the ED.
Interpretation

• Initial EKG swabs show high amount of bacterial presence at baseline, with only three of the ten swabs showing two or less CFUs.

• Second round of swabs show a marked decrease in the number of bacteria present on the EKG machines.

• All but one of the six available comparisons showed a decrease in bacteria of at least two CFUs or more.
Limitations

• Importance of bacterial typing:
  – When using bacterial swabs, it is difficult to rule out environmental bacteria that is expected to be present or considered acceptable
  – Bacterial typing can be determine if the bacteria present is multi-resistant pathogens or regular skin flora.

• Consistency
  – Ideally, the same member of the infection prevention team would have performed both sets of swabs
  – Avoided a difference in swabbing technique.
  – Swabbing the same four machines

• Missing cleaning compliance data
Conclusions

• Although this project had many limitations, it still provided useful evidence for a need for a Standardized EKG machine cleaning protocols.

• In the near future, a hospital-wide protocol for the cleaning of EKG machines will be published, as well as an Emergency Department Initiative for the routine cleaning of EKG machines in addition to their expected cleaning after each patient use.

• The Emergency Department is already looking at applying a similar model to other high-use pieces of equipment, such as the ultrasound machines.

• This project, and its limitations, will serve as a useful guide when implementing similar projects.

• As part of a rural health network, finding at UVMMC can be distribute throughout the network in an effort to enhance health outcomes on a larger level.
References

