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Tahseen J Siddiqui

Norwegian American Hospital, USA

Bugs can be busted: How to prevent healthcare acquired infections?

No one likes bugs! Especially when they are acquired and transmitted to affect the most vulnerable patient population that reside in a healthcare setting. HAIs can have devastating effects on physical, mental/emotional and financial well-being of patients as well as costing billions of dollars to the healthcare system. Additionally, growing number of HAIs are caused by antibiotic resistant pathogens. In the U.S, there were an estimated 687,000 Healthcare Acquired Infections (HAIs) in acute care hospitals were reported to CDC each year. About 72,000 hospital patients with HAIs died during their hospitalization. On any given day, about 1 in 31 hospital patients have at least one healthcare-associated infection. At Norwegian American Hospital, a 200-bed nonprofit safety-net community hospital in Chicago, IL, USA, we have been able to significantly reduce the rates of HAIs, especially catheter-associated UTIs (CAUTI), Central Line-Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSI), MRSA infections and C. Difficile Infections (CDI) by creatively developing and successfully implementing preventive strategies and infection prevention tools. As a result, in 2014, Norwegian American Hospital was recognized for having the lowest rate based on publicly available data of hospital-acquired infections of the 67 hospitals in the greater Chicago area. It was also recognized as top 10% in the country for patient safety by health grades and received an honorary Gage Award from America's Essential Hospitals in 2015.

Biography

Tahseen J Siddiqui is an American board-certified Internist and Infectious Disease specialist. Graduated from University of Karachi, Pakistan (1986), and postgraduate diplomate (MRCP) from the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland (1997). He completed residency training in Internal Medicine from University of Iowa Hospitals & Clinics, Iowa City, IA, U.S.A (2001) and specialized in adult Infectious Diseases from Loyola University Medical Center, Maywood, IL, U.S.A (2003) He also acquired postgraduate medical education and training from UK/Ireland by completing fellowship training in General Medicine/Pulmonary Diseases from Beaumont Hospital, affiliated with the Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland, Dublin. (1998), and practiced medicine for a decade in Europe. He is currently a practicing Infectious Disease specialist in the U.S in both the clinical as well as academic settings and holds various leadership positions including Chair, Infection Prevention & Department of Medicine, Clinical & Teaching Faculty of Family Medicine & Podiatry Residency Programs at Norwegian American Hospital, Chicago, IL; Medical Director of Clinical Excellence at Saint Bernard Hospital, Chicago, IL, Clinical & Teaching Faculty of Family Medicine Residency Program at Jackson Park Hospital & Medical Center, Chicago; Asst. Professor of Medicine at St. George University Medical School, and President of Chicago Infectious Disease Physicians Group.)