Best Practices: The Nurse’s Role in CLABSI Prevention and Surveillance

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Problem Statement

Infections, known as central line associated blood stream infections (CLABSI), are recognized complications of central venous catheters, resulting in increased morbidity, mortality, and healthcare costs.

Evidence-Based Protocol

- Interdisciplinary approach
- **CLABSI prevention bundle**
  - Hand hygiene
  - Chlorhexidine skin antisepsis
  - Optimal site selection
  - Maximum barrier precautions
  - Daily assessment
- **Daily assessment**:
  - Catheter care
  - Personal protective equipment
  - Scrub the hub
- **Patient education**
  - Teach patient and visitors to avoid touching tubing and practice proper hand hygiene

Surveillance

- Daily care and maintenance incorporate a bundle of interventions that are primarily nurse-driven making the nurse’s role in CLABSI prevention and surveillance pivotal.
- Nurse’s role in surveillance includes
  - assessment data (risk assessments) and care of the catheter site
  - ensuring that the dressing is secure and clean surrounding the insertion site
  - chart review
  - observations to ensure that sterile and aseptic techniques are adhered to.
- Nurses are essential in screening patients to ensure CVCs removal as soon as they no longer necessary

Implications of the review included preventive techniques per the development of universal guidelines that have aided in decreasing the incidence and prevalence of CLABSI. Hospital acquired infections are highly preventable, and the aim is to eliminate the occurrence of CLABSI by establishing the nurse’s role in CLABSI prevention, as well as implementing guidelines that provide safety and quality care.

Conclusion

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