

Infection Prevention: It Takes A Village

Background:

More than 500,000 ERCP procedures are one annually in the United States. In 2015, an outbreak of Carbapenem-Resistant Enterobacteriaceae (CRE) occurred due to contaminated medical instruments. This potentially deadly “superbug” may have infected 179 patients and may be the a “contributing factor” to two deaths of patients.

Method:

To tackle infection prevention, our endoscopy department formed a Scope Reprocessing Task Force which consisted of:

- Endoscopy Nurses
- GI Technicians
- Unit Leadership

Our unit became a member of the SGNA Infection Prevention Program with the goals:

- Inservice staff on Biofilms and Endoscopes
- Change our PPE policy during scope reprocessing and procedure rooms
- Increase our endoscopy reprocessing from annual to quarterly
- Increase education for all staff regarding infection prevention



Results:

The committee work focused on the entire department and included:

- Quarterly ATP testing of surfaces in the department
- Culturing ERCP and EUS scopes weekly per CDC protocol
- Conducted a presentation to Biofilms at local GI conference
- Redesigned the procedure rooms to help prevent cross contamination
- Changed process in procedure room to have the RN hand devices/accessories to the technician to prevent clean supply contamination by the technician

- Conducting round table discussion between committee and staff
- Invited physician and industry into provide additional education to the staff
- Developed a patient education board with pictures and diagrams regarding our scope reprocessing standards to help answers some of the questions they may have.

Provided resources to all staff:

- Obtaining scope
- Presoaking
- Pre-cleaning
- Leak testing
- Manual Cleaning
- Reprocessing
- Wrote our PPE for each role in the procedure room
- Purchased additional isolation carts and created flip isolation signs for each room including in prep and recovery spaces
- GI tech/GI nurse mentoring program included in our orientation program which includes infection prevention and scope reprocessing
- Dedicated infection prevention board focuses on a different infectious disease every month including questions and prizes for the staff to participate and learn

Conclusion: Together we can make a difference in making the endoscopy experience safer for everyone.

Infection Prevention: It takes village!