“Clean Hands Save Lives”

By Julie Musantry, MSN, RN, CEN

Cleaning your hands is the number 1 way to prevent infection. In the United States, one in 25 hospital patients develop an infection that was picked up in the hospital. In 2011, there were approximately 722,000 of these health care-associated infections in the U.S. and about 75,000 patients died (CDC, 2011). Health care providers need to practice hand hygiene at key points in time to prevent the transmission of microorganisms to patients including:

♦ Before patient contact.
♦ After patient contact.
♦ After contact with blood, body fluids, contaminated surfaces, and equipment (even if gloves are worn).
♦ Before invasive procedures.
♦ After gloves are removed.

Our March data shows our overall rate of hand hygiene compliance was at 77%. Our goal is to reach 90%. New data is currently being collected and will be shared in the coming weeks. Please do your part to protect yourselves and our patients. Clean Hands Saves Lives!
With great success, our hospital’s Falls Prevention Program has been centered on an organizational system wide approach in reducing patient falls. To reduce patient falls further, the Falls Taskforce embarked on implementing an innovative concept in event reporting- Patient Assisted Incident Reporting (PAIR). By incorporating the patient’s experience and perceptions of the event, the goal of PAIR was to gather information that corroborated our interventions and enlighten us to possible patient needs, concerns, and expectations.

Our organization’s falls rate for 2013 decreased from 2012’s rate of 1.75/1000 patient days to **1.47**, a decrease of 16%. Our organization’s serious injury from falls decreased by 50%, from 4 to 2 in 2013. The information obtained from the PAIR initiative allowed us to give positive feedback to the Hourly Rounding team initiative which started in 2012. Additionally when the taskforce looked at data trends, medications such as opiates, narcotics, and sleep aids, in particular Ambien, were common in falls patients. In conjunction with the Medication Safety Committee, Ambien dosing was decreased from 10 mg to 5 mg and was removed from the automated Comfort Care order set. Dilaudid was decreased from 1 and 2 mg dosing to 0.4 and 0.6 mg Q3 hours. PA-PSRS data revealed that falls related to both were significantly decreased. The relationship between falls and pain medications decreased from 36% to 17% and anxiety medications from 19% to 17%. Additionally, a bedside handoff initiative was created in late 2013 in which the conversation of fall risks and hourly rounding take place.

As a result of our hard work and innovative initiatives, Chester County Hospital has won the **2014 HAP Achievement Award for Patient Safety**. Please take a moment and visit The Hospital & Healthsystem Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) website. [https://www.haponline.org/PA-Hospitals/Achievement-Awards](https://www.haponline.org/PA-Hospitals/Achievement-Awards)
We heard you!

On behalf of the Employee Safety Committee, we heard you. Feedback from 140 respondents to the Employee Safety Survey will help us, help you. Some of the feedback shared related to personal safety and security on the campus. While attention to your feedback is ongoing in effort to keep the grounds safe and secure, the safety committee would like to share a few self-awareness tips.

Safety Tips:

Campus Safety

- If you see something that does not look or feel right:
  
  Avoid it
  Stay safe
  Call Security (Emergency 2222; Non-Emergency 5111)

- At night, walk with a coworker or in a group to/from your vehicle.

- Be aware of your surroundings when walking to/from your vehicle. Do not be distracted with electronic devices.

- Have your car keys in hand prior to approaching your vehicle. When you get to your car, quickly look around it then get in and lock the door.

- If you are experiencing a personal issue and do not feel safe, call Security (5111) for an escort to/from your vehicle.

- At night, use the Main Entrance when coming or going. Not the side or back doors.

- Have your I.D.in hand if using a door with card reader that allows entrance after dark.
Bug Bytes: Ebola Virus

By Julie Musantry, MSN, RN, CEN
Charlee Faucette, MT(HEW)

News about the Ebola outbreak in West Africa is a topic on nearly every news outlet. The first cases of Ebola occurred in 1976 near the Ebola River in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (formally Zaire). The virus is believed to originate in bats, monkeys, and/or rodents. People are not contagious until they develop symptoms of the illness. Once infected, a person can spread the virus to others through direct contact with their blood, secretions, sweat and other body fluids (World Health Organization, 2014). Although the death rate varies it can sometimes be as high as 90%, it is important to remember that current patients are being cared for in countries that do not have sophisticated hospitals and treatments or housekeeping/environmental controls such as those in the United States. The virus is killed by typical disinfectants such as the bleach cleaner or Virex that our Environmental Services staff uses everyday.

The Infection Prevention Department and the Emergency Preparedness Committee are developing a comprehensive plan that will be implemented on the rare chance that a patient would present to our Emergency Department meeting hemorrhagic fever (like Ebola) criteria. For more information about Ebola please visit http://www.cdc.gov. If you have any questions, please contact Charlee Faucette at 610-431-5485.

Occupational Health

By Brenda Sampson BSN, RN

The Occupational Health Center has been happy to provide onsite Employee Health Services at Chester County Hospital since May 2014. Services provided include T-dap and other immunization updates, blood borne pathogen follow-up appointments and TB skin testing for those unable to attend Blitz Day. In an effort to update employees to current CDC recommendations, The Occupational Health Center has begun to review all employee files. For those whose immunization status does not match the current recommendations, an e-mail will be sent to inform that employee. This effort is being made to protect our wonderful employees, as well as our patients.

Employee Health at Chester County Hospital is located in the Pre-Admission Testing office on the ground floor. Brenda Sampson, BSN, RN is the Employee Health Nurse available at this location every Monday and Thursday, except holidays, from 1-5pm. Please contact Brenda by phone or e-mail to schedule an appointment. 610-738-2380 (CCH location), 610-738-2457 (OHC location) or bsampson@cchosp.com

The “Safety Matters” newsletter is coordinated by the Quality Management Department, if you have any questions or would like to contribute to our next quarterly letter please contact Julie Musantry at (x5588).