Barriers of Oral Care Completion and Documentation in the Clinical Setting

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Background

- The completion of oral care is one of the simplest ways to decrease patient’s risk of developing Non Ventilator Hospital acquired pneumonia (NV-HAP)
- On average, a single case of Hospital Acquired Pneumonia results in:
  - An additional 7 to 9 days of care in the hospital
  - $10,000-$40,000 accrued in medical costs, and places the patient at 8.4 times more likely to die during hospitalization
- Nurses and technicians often times either forget to chart the occurrence of the care, or forget to provide the care altogether
- Oral care is not only a critical component in preventing hospital acquired conditions such as pneumonia, thrush, and sores, but it is also vital in maintaining integrity and improving patient satisfaction

Methods

- Administered anonymous paper pre-surveys to RNs.
- Presented educational pamphlets for RN’s to review individually.
- Anonymous post-surveys administered two weeks after education

Measures and Results

- Pre-Survey Results (n=23)

Summary/Discussion

- Next Steps:
  - Create and implement an oral care protocol
  - Follow and track patient who have developed a healthcare acquired illness such as pneumonia or thrush to determine if oral care has been provided a minimum of twice a day
  - Continue to provide education to RNs and CNAs working in the clinical setting

Barriers of this Study:

- Lack of time to complete a post survey
- Lack of means to provide alternative tools to complete oral care, including pre moistened swabs or suction swab kits.

Conclusion

- Rates of health care acquired conditions such as pneumonia, thrush, and sores can be lowered with the completion and documentation of oral care a minimum of twice a day
- The largest barriers to oral care completion were identified to be a lack of time, a lack of CNA help, and other nursing tasks taking priority over oral care.
- Written education provided to RNs will help outline why oral care should be a priority in the clinical setting.
- Post education results pending.

References