Surveillance to reduce urinary tract infections: The STRUTI project

By Oyebola Fasugba, Anne Gardner, Brett Mitchell, Wendy Beckingham and Noleen Bennett



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An estimated 65 to 70% of healthcare associated urinary tract infections (HAUTIs) may be prevented using infection control measures (Umscheid et al 2011). Point prevalence surveys (PPS) are a useful cost-effective surveillance method for prevention and control of HAUTIs. The data can help inform policy and nursing practice thereby reducing the risk of HAUTI acquisition (Smiddy & Murphy 2013).

Researchers and infection control experts at Australian Catholic University's School of Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedicine; Avondale College for Higher Education; Canberra Hospital; and Victorian Healthcare Associated Infection Surveillance Coordinating Centre are working in partnership to develop a national surveillance system for HAUTIs using PPS. This is a three phase project with recent completion of phase I (Gardner et al 2014). Preliminary findings from phase I were used to develop a national protocol which has recently been published (Mitchell et al 2014). Phase II will develop and test a website for online collection of HAUTI surveillance data in Australian acute care hospitals and aged care facilities. This phase is being funded by a 2014 Ian Potter Foundation Grant and an Australian Catholic University Faculty of Health Sciences Research Grant.

Utilisation of surveillance findings with the use of care plans will support delivery of a quality and safety-orientated healthcare service (Smiddy & Murphy 2013) consistent with Standard 3.2 of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards (ACSQHC, 2011). The researchers, through continued collaboration with hospitals and aged care facilities, will continue to progress work in developing a national surveillance system for HAUTIs.

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Minimum standard for wound dressing procedure in the home care environment

By Terry Swanson

A working party for the Australian Wound Management Association (AWMA) is developing a position paper on the minimum standard for wound dressing procedure in the home care environment.

The group consists of nurses from acute, community, general practice and the outpatient setting as well as an infection control consultant, GP and a podiatrist.

This group was formed after a request from the membership seeking clarification and guidance regarding The National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards published by the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Healthcare (2011) which includes Standard 3 - Preventing and Controlling Healthcare Associated Infections and Aseptic Technique in relation to the wound dressing procedure that is discussed in the Australian Guidelines for the

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