3M Convenes Infection Prevention Experts for Interdisciplinary Call-to-Action to Reduce Surgical Site Infections at Health Care Facilities

Release Date:
Monday, January 9, 2012 8:00 am CST

Terms:
Company (English)

Dateline City:
ST. PAUL, Minn.

White paper targets teamwork, communication and collaboration as keys to improving infection prevention

ST. PAUL, Minn.--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Today a cross-functional team of infection prevention experts released “Educate, Empower, Engage: A Collaborative Interdisciplinary Call-to-Action for Reducing Surgical Site Infections,” outlining potential solutions for preventing surgical site infections (SSIs) at health care facilities. Co-authored by recognized experts in infection prevention, epidemiology, the operating room and sterile processing, the call-to-action focuses on breaking down barriers and improving collaborative teamwork and communication across each hospital function to improve patient safety and outcomes. Information and recommendations in the call-to-action resulted from the fourth annual Infection Prevention Leadership Summit (IPLS).

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), as many as 500,000 SSIs are estimated to occur annually,1 2 a rate representing as much as 22 percent of total healthcare-associated infections (HAIs).3 New 3M research gathered from IPLS attendees showed the barriers to reducing the number of infections may reside within a health care facility’s workplace culture. Responses from professional health care organizations and industry experts indicate health care facilities face challenges related to teamwork, communication and collaboration, process improvements and compliance with infection prevention recommended practices on site:

- More than 50 percent of those surveyed cited teamwork and collaboration as a top challenge, with 40 percent identifying it as a barrier.
- Only 43 percent of surgical staffs receive SSI hospital report cards/dashboards.
- Process improvements were a challenge among 31 percent of facilities.

The impact of these barriers is costly; it has been estimated that SSIs may result in as many as 3.7 million additional hospitalization days and an annual overall cost of $1.6 billion in the United States.4

To drive reductions in these statistics, the “Educate, Empower, Engage” call-to-action identifies three areas that, if put into practice, would increase a health care facility’s ability to reduce SSIs:

- Educate: Because health care institutions are complex and multi-faceted, personnel training must focus on understanding interactions and relationships across departments, demonstrating personal competency, reporting data and outcomes and utilizing electronic medical records.
- Empower: Health care institutions must adopt a culture that delineates responsibility and increases accountability among all personnel, not solely leadership.
- Engage: Employees should be encouraged to make a psychological investment in patient care, with all disciplines performing their jobs with a level of pride beyond simply achieving formal indicators of success.

“If facilities put all three of these disciplines into practice, it would produce positive change toward the goal of preventing SSIs in every patient, every time,” said E. Patchen Dellinger, M.D., Professor, Vice Chair and Chief of the Division of General Surgery, University of Washington Medical Center. “In the area of infection prevention, we believe we must find ways to implement the ‘Educate, Empower and Engage’ concepts consistently and universally across functions, so that all disciplines are integrated, horizontally and vertically, toward the goal of eliminating SSIs.”

The “Educate, Empower and Engage” call-to-action was the result of a three-day summit focused specifically on reducing HAIs and SSIs. The summit, titled “All for None: Eliminating HAIs through Knowledge, Collaboration and Leadership,” brought together 80 professionals representing infection prevention, surgery, sterile processing and epidemiology. 3M and its partners convened the group to share ideas, network and generate dialogue about possible interdisciplinary steps that can be taken toward the reduction of HAIs, with special focus on SSIs. Expert faculty members presented the latest challenges and emerging trends in the fields of epidemiology, infection prevention, sterile processing and operating room procedures.

“The summit and call-to-action helped us outline how best we can work together. It is clear there are opportunities to
improve information sharing and processes across teams,” said Kathleen Kohut, R.N., Director of Infection Prevention, NCH Healthcare System. “Teams must work proactively across departments, share in finding solutions and feel empowered to point out when something needs to be improved.”


“This is the fourth year we’ve convened a cross-functional summit of infection prevention experts, and we are proud of work they have produced,” said Debra Rectenwald, President and General Manager of 3M’s Infection Prevention Division. “We challenge health care facilities to use these concepts in their strategic planning moving forward.”

The summit and call-to-action is a collaborative effort supported by an educational grant from 3M and its partners Sage Products, Belimed and Rochester Medical and with participation by the following professional associations: Association of periOperative Registered Nurses (AORN), Association for Professionals in Infection Control and Epidemiology (APIC), International Association of Healthcare Central Service Material Management (IAHCSMM), National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF), Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America (SHEA), and Surgical Infection Society (SIS).

About 3M Infection Prevention
3M Infection Prevention Division is truly on a mission to help reduce healthcare-associated infections through its infection prevention solutions. With its system of people, products and processes, 3M remains a trusted partner committed to helping hospitals reduce the risk of infections, improve patient outcomes, and control their bottom lines. Learn more at www.3m.com/infectionprevention.

About 3M
3M captures the spark of new ideas and transforms them into thousands of ingenious products. Our culture of creative collaboration inspires a never-ending stream of powerful technologies that make life better. 3M is the innovation company that never stops inventing. With $27 billion in sales, 3M employs about 80,000 people worldwide and has operations in more than 65 countries. For more information, visit www.3M.com or follow @3MNews on Twitter.

About Belimed
As a world leader in infection control, specializing in cleaning, disinfection and sterilization, Belimed has been providing state-of-the-art products in the healthcare, pharmaceutical and laboratory sectors worldwide for over 40 years. Belimed is headquartered in Switzerland and, with 12 companies throughout Europe, North America and China, and many authorized partners, Belimed is represented worldwide by a strong network in over 80 countries.

Belimed US has its headquarters in Charleston, S.C. Since its incorporation in 2002, Belimed Inc. has experienced rapid growth throughout the U.S.A., establishing itself as a leader in sterile processing equipment and solutions. At Belimed US, our mission is to ensure absolute customer confidence in their sterile processing areas by providing superior products and creating integrated systems through exceptional design, installation and service teams.

About Rochester Medical Corporation
Rochester Medical is the world’s leading developer and manufacturer of silicone catheters for urological and continence care applications. Since 1988, we have dedicated ourselves to improving lives through advanced technology, superior product performance and greater product options. Proudly made in the U.S.A., our products are sold in more than 70 countries worldwide. Better patient outcomes through innovation and a focus on infection prevention are central to Rochester Medical’s success.

About Sage Products, Inc.
Since 1971, Sage Products has developed disposable healthcare products trusted by leading healthcare facilities worldwide. Sage’s industry-leading branches include Toohette® Oral Care, Sage® 2% Chlorhexidine Gluconate Cloths for patient preoperative skin preparation, Comfort Bath® Cleansing Washcloths, Comfort Shield® Incontinence Care Washcloths, Prevalon® Pressure-Relieving Heel Protector and Prevalon® Turn and Position System. Sage’s goal is to help improve patient safety and outcomes by preventing skin breakdown, healthcare-associated pneumonias, surgical site infections and other adverse hospital-acquired events. For more information, visit www.sageproducts.com or our retail site, www.shopageproducts.com.

1 Berrios-Torres, SI. Surgical Site Infection (SSI) Toolkit Slide Deck. Division of Healthcare Quality Promotion, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2009.


Language:
English

Contact:
3M
Mary Kokkinen, 651-733-8806
mckokkinen@mmm.com
or
Fleishman-Hillard