Identifying Structural Factors Associated with Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) Risk in a Single-Center Pediatric Academic Hospital

Elizabeth Monsees  
*Children's Mercy Hospital*, eamonsees@cmh.edu

Paul N. Bauer  
*Children's Mercy Hospital*, pnbauer@cmh.edu

Yolanda Ballam  
*Children's Mercy Hospital*, yballam@cmh.edu

Brian R. Lee  
*Children's Mercy Hospital*, blee@cmh.edu

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**Recommended Citation**
Monsees, Elizabeth; Bauer, Paul N.; Ballam, Yolanda; and Lee, Brian R., "Identifying Structural Factors Associated with Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) Risk in a Single-Center Pediatric Academic Hospital" (2019). Posters. 91.  
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Identifying Structural Factors Associated with Central Line-Associated Bloodstream Infections (CLABSI) Risk in a Single-Center Pediatric Academic Hospital

Elizabeth Monsees, MSN, MBA, RN, CIC, FAPIC; Paul Bauer, MD; Yolanda Ballam, BS, CIC; & Brian Lee, MPH, PhD

Introduction

Outcomes result from processes that occur within systems with a particular structure.
- Efforts to prevent CLABSI are focused on individual compliance with established care bundles.
- Little is known about the extent to which organizational structure and processes influence CLABSI outcomes.
- Purpose of this study was to explore system-level risks for CLABSI within clinical units.

Methods

Objectives: compare unit structure and process-related factors against unit-specific CLABSI rate.

Structure-related factors
- Acuity-based nurse workload represented by the rate of hours per patient day (HPPD)
- Ratio of full to part-time staff (FTPT)
- Number of separations/nurse turnover

Process-related factors
- Average length of stay (LOS)
- Rates of central line entry by type: Laboratory collection, Medications, Flush

Aggregate monthly data from July 2014 to June 2016 was collected on patients aged 0 months to 18 years.

Results

A total of 104 CLABSI were identified with unit rates per 1000 central line days:
- ICN: 0.95
- PICU: 2.22
- Heme/Onc: 2.11
- Med/Surg: 2.22

Figure 1. Stratified, multivariable Poisson regression produced unit-specific incidence rate ratios (IRR) and accounted for central line days. Factors by unit type were standardized to represent one standard deviation change.

- Nurse turnover was a significant risk in ICN (IRR: 1.41; p=.018) and Med/Surg (IRR: 1.36; p=.046) but not for the PICU (IRR: 0.90; p=.341) and Heme/Onc (IRR: 1.01; p=.871) floors.
- Increases in the FTPT staff ratio had increased risk of CLABSI in the PICU (IRR: 1.49; p=.005), yet protective for the ICN (IRR: 0.34; p<.001).
- Increased LOS was a risk for Heme/Onc (IRR: 1.43; p=0.088), yet protective for the ICN (IRR: 0.65; p=.002) and PICU (IRR: 0.62; p=.016).
- Central line access reasons were not statistically significant with the exception of lab entries on the Med/Surg floor (IRR: 1.67; p=0.030).

Conclusion

- CLABSI mitigation requires more than individual competence with task-related practices.
- The unique work ecology of each clinical area may broadly influence CLABSI as an outcome.
- Extending analyses to consider organizational structure can inform resource allocation and recalibrate traditional prevention strategies.

Elizabeth Monsees: 2016-2018 Jonas Nurse Leaders Scholar recipient. eamonsees@cmh.edu 816-701-4531