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Innovative Use of EHR to Support Admission Screening for Emerging Pathogens

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Innovative Use of EHR to Support Admission Screening for Emerging Pathogens



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CentraCare, St. Cloud, Minnesota

Problem

- CentraCare hospitals were the first in Minnesota to identify a patient with *Candida auris* (*C. auris*), an emerging pathogen.
- 2018 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and state health department recommended adoption of enhanced admission screening process to allow for early identification of patients at risk of being colonized with *C. auris*/Carbapenem-Resistant Organisms (CROs).
- C. auris*, a fungus, and CROs, comprised of organisms from the Enterobacteriaceae family resistant to carbapenems, are emerging multidrug resistant pathogens. Emphasis on identification and early isolation of at-risk patients decreases risk of transmission.

References

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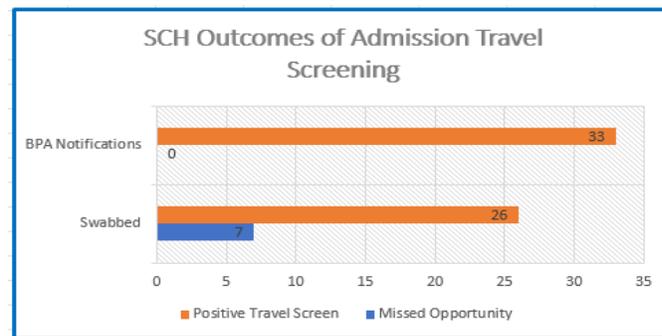
Interventions

- Upon identification of *C. auris* index case:
 - Appropriate isolation precautions initiated
 - Identified patients with potential risk of exposure
 - Consulted with MDH guidance.
 - Developed patient education related to organism, specimen collection, transmission-based precautions
 - Built surveillance swab orders, result notification, Storyboard infection rule-out flag
- Implementation of travel screening to allow for early identification of population at risk for *C. auris* or CROs:
 - Established screening questions in Admission Navigator
 - Created Best Practice Alert (BPA) for transmission-based precautions and surveillance swabbing
 - Educated healthcare workers and providers
 - Rule-out infection banner displayed on Story Board for communication until results finalized
- Collaborated with Epic to identify standardized resistance patterns and created a combined MDRO Storyboard infection to simplify organism recognition



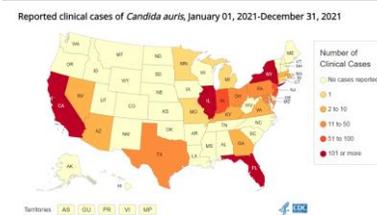
Study

- Admission travel screening, BPA, and swabbing processes went live on October 5, 2021.
 - The Infection Prevention and Control team's collaboration with CentraCare Epic, Laboratory Services, and Nursing made the expedited implementation a success.
- Between October 5, 2021 and March 6, 2022, 47 patients in the CentraCare Health System and Epic Connect partners triggered a BPA.
 - Number of patients screened includes 33 at St. Cloud Hospital (SCH), 11 at CentraCare Critical Access Hospitals, and 3 at Epic Connect Partners.
 - 26 of the 33 SCH patients who screened as at-risk were swabbed. Of those 26, none were positive for *C. auris* or CROs.
- Implementing enhanced admission travel screening across the CentraCare inpatient enterprise and Epic Connect partners has improved patient safety through early identification of transmission risk related to emerging pathogens.



Act

- Ongoing evaluation of admission travel screen completion and response to BPA.
- Future opportunities for improvement:
 - Lab result identification by nursing
 - Appropriate discontinuation of isolation
 - Improvement of admission screening, response to BPA, and swab collection on day of admission
 - Enhance surveillance reports



Team Members

- Infection Prevention and Control
- Epic team
- Laboratory Services
- Nurse Educators
- St. Cloud Hospital Nursing

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