Background

- Advances in medical technology have allowed pediatric patients to be discharged home with complex devices including central venous catheters (CVCs). In order for these patients to be safely discharged, families are required to be trained to care for these catheters.
- At a large children’s hospital, extensive family education and training for CVCs was already established. However, the other caregivers in the home (home health nurses) were not receiving the same training.
- In an effort to target these caregivers, an educational program was designed and implemented in 2011.

Purpose

- To develop a successful and sustainable CVC educational program for home health nurses in the community in order to standardize care and decrease community acquired bloodstream infections.

Methods

- Program was originally designed and implemented by nurses on a gastroenterology unit in 2011
- Expanded to include instructors from vascular access team, hematology oncology and clinical nurse specialists from each discipline
- Home health nurses invited to attend from the region
- Free class with educational hours offered
- Class structured with lecture time and skills practice through simulation
- Pre and Post knowledge assessments

Results

- 30 classes have been offered
- 288 nurses have attended (73% RN/27% LVN) from 25 different home health companies in the region.
- Community acquired infection rates for pediatric populations:
  - Gastroenterology: 36.3% reduction
  - Hematology/Oncology: 59.2% reduction
- Pre and post knowledge assessment results:
  - 14.4% average increase

Conclusions

- An educational program targeting home health nurses in the community that care for complex patients with central venous catheters can decrease community acquired infection rates and complications.
- This program can be designed and tailored for multiple patient populations with varying complexities and medical devices.
Teaming Up to Take Down Community Acquired Bloodstream Infections

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Children’s Health™ Children’s Medical Center

Gastroenterology Community CLABSI

Number of CLABSI Yearly Mean Rate

Class Start

36.3% Reduction

Hematology/Oncology CLABSI

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59.2% Reduction