

A Quality Improvement Project to Reduce Incidence of *Clostridium difficile* Infection through  
Implementation of Evidence-Based Terminal Clean Procedures

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Abstract

Hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) are a huge economic burden and threat to patient health and outcomes. *Clostridium difficile* is the most common HAI. Effective hand hygiene and proper environmental cleaning procedures are significant to preventing the spread of *C. difficile* infections. The research question used to guide this project is: Does the use of a monitoring system for post *C. difficile* isolation terminal clean procedure reduce the rate of hospital-acquired *C. difficile* in the acute care population? A thorough organizational assessment was performed and directed this project to identify causes that may contribute to the recurrences of *C. difficile* infections. The findings led to further investigation on how isolation rooms are cleaned since patient rooms are recognized as a critical source of contamination. A multi-dimensional monitoring system was implemented to reduce the occurrence of *C. difficile* in the facility. Since implementation of the monitoring system, the incidence of *C. difficile* has decreased from 12 to 11 in one year and the total number of other HAIs have decreased from 33 to 26 in one year. This suggests that a monitoring system to improve the thoroughness of cleaning procedures contribute to a decrease in *C. difficile* as well as other HAIs.