A High Impact Intervention for a High Impact Intervention – Improving documentation of peripheral venous access insertion in theatre

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Improvement Issues and Context

The Department of Health’s High Impact Intervention (HII) – Peripheral intravenous cannula care bundle lists six actions to be performed at the time of peripheral intravenous cannulation.¹

The Health and Social Care Act 2008: Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Infections and related Guidance requires that “registered providers must audit compliance against key policies and procedures for infection prevention”.²

Effective audit of compliance is only possible if documentation is complete.

Evidence of Improvement

The six HII actions for peripheral cannula insertion were documented in 1/50 patients (2%) prior to intervention and in 26/50 patients (52%) post intervention (Fisher’s exact test p < 0.0001).

Summary

Placement of stickers on anaesthetic charts significantly improves the documentation of the HII peripheral intravenous cannula care bundle in patients who have cannulae inserted in theatre.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Pre-Intervention</th>
<th>Post-Intervention</th>
<th>P value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HII venous access documented?</td>
<td>2% (1/50)</td>
<td>52% (26/50)</td>
<td>&lt;0.0001</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Future Steps

This is low tech intervention which produces a high impact improvement in documentation. Future print runs of anaesthetic charts will be re-designed to include this documentation.

References
1. Department of Health – High Impact Intervention: Peripheral intravenous cannula bundle (July 2010)