M-Safety P1: Improving Awareness of Catheters and Skin Wounds to Reduce Hospital-Acquired Infection

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Problem Statement

Catheters are often necessary for patients with prostate problems, following surgery, or needing medicines over a long period. However, prolonged catheter placement does pose risks that must be managed.

Communication between nurses and physicians is often reduced due to the presence of catheters in their patients.

Unfortunately, the literature shows that physicians are often unaware of the presence of catheters in their patients.

Solution Approach

We propose a bedside display to improve provider awareness of risks due to catheter placement and pressure wounds.

Impact & Preliminary Results

Prototyping was conducted in simulation labs in order to receive feedback on the display.

"I should be able to find all of this information [catheter and skin wound] by doing an exam, so this [our display] is sort of a cane... something to help..."

"That [looking at catheter durations] immediately starts me asking questions like ‘why?’"

Future Work

- Continue updating bedside display in accordance with research team requests and with special attention to HIPAA compliance and security
- Continue conducting pre-intervention provider awareness surveys and analyze the results
- Implement the display in clinical unit and conduct post-intervention provider awareness surveys

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Provider Data

- Physicians and PAs complete a paper survey after rounding on their patients

MiChart Data

- Our team records EMR data on the presence of catheters and pressure injuries

Nursing Data

- We also record the same data from the Daily Management System, which is maintained by the unit’s charge nurse

We have completed 16 dates of pre-intervention surveying of Medical providers and have started the same process for Surgical providers.

After the display is introduced into the clinical environment, we will collect similar post-intervention surveys and compare the results.