

Keeping Patients Safe

FALL PREVENTION

It is estimated that one-third of hospital falls are preventable through effective fall prevention programs. Reducing the risk of falls during hospitalization is one of our top priorities as falls can lead to serious injuries, longer hospital stays, and higher health care costs. Our goal is to maintain patient safety at all times. A member of our nursing staff conducts a fall risk screening on every patient. This helps us identify all patients who are a high risk for falls. Once identified, our team implements safety measures such as:

- Door signage
- Yellow bracelets and nonslip socks to easily identify high-risk patients
- Bed alarms

Most recently we implemented a new intervention utilizing chair alarms, which allows our patients to be up in the chairs for meals or additional comfort. These chair alarms assist in our goal of increasing mobility while still ensuring safety is maintained.

REDUCING THE RISK OF HOSPITAL-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that about one in every 31 patients who become hospitalized will experience a hospital-associated infection (HAI). HAIs include central line-associated blood stream infections (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI).

At Washington Health, we are continuously working with the nursing staff to decrease this risk of HAIs for all of our patients. This effort is often in collaboration with different teams within the organization including Infection Prevention, and most recently, Information Services.



Telemetry Clinical Nurse Specialist Shiny George, RN, CNS and Telemetry Nurse Manager Danielle Webber, RN, provide special training to prevent falls to Telemetry and Medical-Oncology RNs and Rehab Services staff.

The nursing staff utilizes shared governance councils to discuss any practices that may impact patient outcomes. These meetings occur monthly and are integral to ensuring patients are receiving high-quality, safe patient care. The discussion often incorporates best practices utilized in organizations across the nation. As a result, we have implemented many different HAI prevention bundles that help promote positive patient outcomes.

LINE & CATHETER INFECTION PREVENTION

Line-associated infections account for about 75% of HAIs annually. At Washington Health, we begin each shift with a huddle and identify all patients on the unit with any central lines or Foley catheters—sharing awareness of needed interventions in order to decrease the risk of CLABSI or CAUTI while admitted. These interventions include:

- Monitoring the number of central line/catheter days.
- Assessing the indication and necessity of the central line/catheter in collaboration with physicians.
- Determining the need for medications that may help decrease the need for the central line/catheter collaboration with physicians.
- Providing chlorhexidine baths to patients with central lines/catheters.
- Following daily maintenance protocols.

The staff at Washington Health are committed to discovering and implementing tools to help us routinely outperform the national benchmarks in many HAI areas.

YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON			
Year	CAUTIs	CAUTI Rate	CAUTI SIR
FY2021	22	2.63	3.31
FY2022	7	0.90	1.13
FY2023	7	1.01	1.33
FY2024	2	0.28	0.36

YEAR-TO-YEAR COMPARISON			
Year	CLABSIs	CLABSI Rate	CLABSI SIR
FY2021	9	0.86	1.08
FY2022	3	0.28	0.35
FY2023	0	0	0
FY2024	0	0	0

Since 2021, the number of these hospital-acquired infections has continually decreased and are better than the national benchmarks.