

Lena Wickenden, FULD Fellow Cohort II



The Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) Project is a quality improvement project within the Bloomberg Children's Center Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU). Under the direction of Dr. Judy Ascenzi, PICU Clinical Nurse Specialist, a nurse-driven catheter maintenance care bundle was implemented for nursing staff within the PICU. This bundle is an attempt to decrease the number of positive urine cultures, discontinue improper Foley catheter usage, and educate staff on the proper use of indwelling urinary catheters. My role in this project was to collect and analyze data for the patient population with indwelling urinary catheters and compare the data to infection control reports regarding CAUTIs. I was also able to investigate similar connections with Central Line Associated Blood Stream Infections (CLABSIs), which will be the focus of my Level 4 poster presentation.

I am currently a BSN candidate at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, with an expected graduation date of December 20, 2013. In 1999, I was diagnosed with ulcerative colitis, which first introduced me to the realm of healthcare. I required major surgery in 2009, which introduced me to the concept of safety and quality of care in the healthcare profession. I graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in 2010 with a B.A. in English Writing. Upon graduation, I began working at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center as a Patient Care Technician on a neurosurgical unit, and began my search for accelerated nursing programs.

My experiences within the Fuld program combined with my experiences as a patient have helped solidify my belief that it is imperative for healthcare providers to keep safety and quality of care a priority. Through continuing education and incentives for staff to develop quality improvement and evidence based practice projects, we can ensure that our patient population is receiving excellent care.

Upon graduation, I will continue to promote quality and safety in the pediatric population by seeking employment in the PICU. I plan to participate in research as a clinical nurse and will begin my search for doctoral programs with the hope of investigating chronic digestive disease management.