

Ruth Grossinger, FULD Fellow Cohort II



There is increasing regulatory pressure to improve Catheter Associated Urinary Tract Infection (CAUTI) rates in critically ill children. To meet this challenge, in October 2012, Judy Ascenzi, DNP, Clinical Nurse Specialist at the Johns Hopkins Hospital (JHH) Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU), implemented a care bundle in the PICU to address CAUTI prevention in this vulnerable population.

My project role was to collect data on variables used to evaluate the effectiveness of the CAUTI bundle. Daily data collection included: date of insertion, reason for insertion, patient immune status, isolation status, positive urine cultures, prescribed antibiotics, date of urinary catheter removal and patient diagnosis. Findings would then be disseminated to the staff.

I am currently a BSN candidate for December 2013. I graduated in 2002 from Bates College in Lewiston, ME with a degree in Psychology. Since that time, I have worked as an early childhood education teacher at various preschools in New York City and San Francisco, and in the technology sector in San Francisco as a marketing manager. Prior to beginning my Nursing studies at Johns Hopkins University, I interned for a year in the Patient Relations and Infection Control Departments at the University of San Francisco Medical Center, working on various patient satisfaction and hand hygiene compliance initiatives. I am now pursuing a career in Nursing and hope to one day, become a pediatric nurse practitioner, and informatics specialist.

I plan to carry on my interests in patient quality and safety by joining safety committees at the units I work on, and speaking up and educating fellow staff when I see unsafe practices. I have a particular interest in this field because of a suspected surgical error made on a knee surgery I resulting in a need for repeat knee surgery and partial recovery of the strength I once had in my quadriceps.