

JHHCG/Bayview Outpatient PICC Line Study

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1 Background

Today's health care agencies are under pressure to provide more high-tech, high-risk infusion services such as TPN, chemotherapy, blood transfusions, antibiotics, and pain-relieving narcotics to a growing population of consumers. The introduction of the PICC line catheter in the 1970's has led to a cost-effective means of delivering longer-length infusion therapies to patients in the comfort of their own homes, thus decreasing expensive lengthy hospital stays.

The recent climate change in healthcare reform targets cost-reduction, yet health care agencies face a number of barriers including a lack of home care research examining safety and efficacy of services, and varying guidelines among home care agencies in regards to defining, and reporting, central line infections.

It is the purpose of this research to examine the in the home care community and to provide data that could be used in collaboration with other home care agencies to begin standardizing the way in which we ensure quality, evidence-based infusion care.

2 Methods

A retrospective analysis was conducting using Infection Prevention Surveillance data from 2003-2012 from an urban home care company. The efficacy of peripherally inserted central catheters (PICCs) is being analyzed by examining risk factors associated with confirmed PICC line associated infections.

APIC guidelines for HAI site-specific infection criteria were utilized to confirm PICC line infections. A cost-analysis will provide information to better compare hospital-based infusion therapy to home-care based.

3 Results and Conclusion

At this point in time, the data for this study is still being analyzed. Results are expected to be available in August of 2013.

4 Future Directions

An abstract proposal was submitted to the American Public Health Association (APHA) for their Annual Meeting and Exposition in November 2013 in Boston, MA.

The purpose of this project is to examine the safety and efficacy of PICC lines in the home care community. There is currently a lack of research examining home care practices. Providing research findings that support the use of home care will reinforce the need for further support and funding.

5 References

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