



“All Hands On Deck”: Integration of Focused Nurse Leader Rounding for Prevention of Peripheral Intravenous Complications

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PUBLISHED
ABSTRACT



Problem Statement: The prevention of hospital-acquired infections (HAIs) from intravenous access and complications remains an institutional priority and a patient safety standard. 2023 year-to-date data supports that Mount Sinai Queens, a 228-bed hospital in Queens, NY, is currently meeting goals to minimize HAIs related to intravenous lines.

Purpose: The purpose of this project is to ensure the sustainability of current success in minimizing HAIs related to intravenous access by implementing a process of re-education and auditing of practice by nursing leadership with the goal of evaluating and improving current nursing practice related to the maintenance of peripheral intravenous access.

Approach: The project began with hospital-wide nursing education distributed during May 2023. Nurse educators on all inpatient units held in-services and obtained signatures of in-service completion from 90% of inpatient RNs. Next, infection preventionists continued their current practice of assessing all inpatients with peripheral intravenous access on a scheduled basis. Concurrently, the nursing quality department introduced a five-question audit tool administered via REDCap survey to be completed by nurse managers or their designees. Each inpatient nursing department was instructed to complete five audit surveys per week on five different patients on their respective units. Based on the audit findings, nurse managers and educators provided re-education in real time.

Findings: Through July 2023, HAI rates related to intravenous access remained below benchmark. In total, 260 audit surveys received over 10 weeks identified opportunities to enhance nursing practice as it pertains to the care of peripheral intravenous access. These findings were reported out by the Department of Infection Prevention on a bi-weekly basis to nursing and hospital leadership, and have spurred their own unit- and hospital-based quality improvement efforts.

Conclusions and Implications for Clinical Practice: This project's approach of involving nurse managers in the auditing process offered opportunities for real-time staff education and accountability. Furthermore, this project made it evident that ensuring sustainability of success is just as, if not more, important as achieving success. This project demonstrated that seeking continual alignment with nursing best practice is warranted, even when goals are being met.

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TO CITE THIS ARTICLE:

Connors, M., Stephen, D., & Robles, M. (2024). “All Hands On Deck”: Integration of Focused Nurse Leader Rounding for Prevention of Peripheral Intravenous Complications. *Practical Implementation of Nursing Science*, 3(2), pp. 9–10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.29024/pins.69>

COMPETING INTERESTS

The authors have no competing interests to declare.

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*Practical Implementation
of Nursing Science*

DOI: 10.29024/pins.69

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Submitted: 10 November 2023

Accepted: 01 March 2024

Published: 17 May 2024

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