KnowledgeNETWORK
KIMBERLY-CLARK HEALTH CARE EDUCATION

KNOWLEDGE NETWORK* is a dynamic collection of educational resources designed to provide insight and information on relevant healthcare issues.

This value-added service provides knowledge to improve:

- Patient outcomes
- Staff competency
- Staff protection
- Hospital/facility risk reduction

Most programs are accredited to provide Continuing Education credit for Nurses, Respiratory Therapists, Surgical Technologists, or Central Service/Sterile Processing Department professionals.

Programs are available in several formats, including:

- DVDs and DVD/study guide combination programs, facilitated by your Kimberly-Clark representative
- Online courses Independent Study Guides, accessed at your convenience
- Aboard the Kimberly-Clark HAI Bus
- Presented live by Kimberly-Clark faculty, for your facility meetings and conferences

Enclosed is a complete listing of Knowledge Network* courses. Contact your Kimberly-Clark representative for more information about any of these courses.

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Continuing Education Programs

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
A Bundle of Joy: Evidence-Based Prevention of BSIs: Multi-Center Success	This session reviews how one facility, The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, developed standardized best practices to reduce the incidence of central-line associated bloodstream infections. Three essential components for their success – resources, support, leverage – are also discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST* IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online *ST credit for Online format only
Airway Clearance with Closed System Suctioning	The use of closed-suction systems has become common in the care of mechanically ventilated patients. This program will provide nurses, respiratory care practitioners, and other medical professionals with current information on safe and effective airway clearance with a closed-suction system.	Nurses: 1.0 CE ANCC	Bus DVD
An Unkind Cut: Focus on Exogenous Factors in Preventing SSIs	Contributing factors culminating in any surgical site infection (SSI) potentially involve a large number of endogenous (patient related) and exogenous (non-patient related) possibilities. We cannot expect to ultimately be successful in preventing these infections unless we can recognize the diverse origins of wound contamination and understand how normal immune defenses can be thwarted, allowing infection to occur. Only by understanding these factors can we effectively implement means of eliminating their impact. This course focuses on the exogenous factors potentially contributed by surgical team members, the apparel and devices they use, the techniques they practice and the environment in which they operate.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Faculty
An Unkind Cut: Preventing Infections in Surgery	The possibility of a number contributing factors to any surgical site infection (SSI) is complex. Yet we cannot expect to prevent SSIs unless we can recognize potential contributors, understand by what mechanisms they facilitate or allow infection to occur and implement practical means of eliminating or blocking their impact. This online will focus on factors potentially contributed by the surgical team, the practice of ingrained bad habits, conditions in the OR, and the use of “sterile-but-contaminated” instruments.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online
Chapter 1: Front Line in Infection Control	This program is intended for Environmental Services Professionals and their supervisors. Available in English and Spanish.	Not accredited	Bus
Chapter 2: Cleaning Operating and Procedure Rooms	This program is intended for Environmental Services Professionals and their supervisors. Available in English and Spanish.	Not accredited	Bus

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Cleaning the Occupied and Discharged Patient Room	This program is intended for Environmental Services Professionals and their supervisors. Available in English and Spanish.	Not accredited	Bus
Coming Clean: An Essential for Reusable Medical Devices – Revised 2010	More than 46 million surgical procedures are performed each year in the United States, in addition to many more millions of invasive medical procedures. Reusable medical instruments and devices are utilized in all of these procedures, each requiring reprocessing in order to be safely reused. Appropriate cleaning is a critical step in the multi-step reprocessing of reusable instruments and medical devices. The importance of this step is often overlooked; however, if a device is not clean, it cannot be properly disinfected or sterilized. Thus, improper cleaning poses a considerable health risk. In this program, the risks associated with the improper or incomplete cleaning of medical instruments and devices are identified. Additionally, the components of cleaning solutions and factors that impact their effective use will be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	DVD Faculty
Coming Clean: An Essential for Reusable Medical Devices	More than 46 million surgical procedures are performed each year in the United States, in addition to many more millions of invasive medical procedures. Reusable medical instruments and devices are utilized in all of these procedures, each requiring reprocessing in order to be safely reused. Appropriate cleaning is a critical step in the multi-step reprocessing of reusable instruments and medical devices. The importance of this step is often overlooked; however, if a device is not clean, it cannot be properly disinfected or sterilized. Thus, improper cleaning poses a considerable health risk. In this program, the risks associated with the improper or incomplete cleaning of medical instruments and devices are identified. Additionally, the components of cleaning solutions and factors that impact their effective use will be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH AZ Board	Online
Does the Glove Fit?	Medical gloves are a critical component of barrier protection for healthcare personnel exposed to infectious substances and hazardous materials. Questions that should be asked when selecting medical gloves include: do the gloves fit the task at hand, what physical characteristics do they have, what potential complications might be experienced, and will their disposal have an impact on the environment? These are all issues that must be considered for appropriate glove selection. This educational program will address these issues by identifying considerations for medical glove selection and describing factors that affect their physical characteristics. Associated complications and environmental impact will also be reviewed.	CS/SPD 1.0 CH CBSPD	Bus DVD
Enteral Feeding: Care & Maintenance of the Stoma Site and Feeding Tube	As a healthcare provider caring for patients requiring enteral feeding, it is important to become familiar with the individual types of feeding tubes, their components, care, potential complications and preventative measures. This program is designed to provide a practical guide to the care and maintenance of the stoma site and feeding tube with troubleshooting recommendations for preventative measures and treatment options.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Bus DVD/SG

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ESP: Bacterial Filtration	This module describes the way wrap works as a microbial filter and defines the FDA's sterilization wrap classification system which impacts the hospital's ability to choose products. Also described are the most common ways of contaminating sterile packages and the three different barrier fabrics and their filtration capabilities.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Cost of Instrument Tray Processing	This module focuses on the analysis of the actual cost of processing a wrapped instrument tray through the sterile processing department. Calculations for compromised wrap, reprocessing labor, etc. are presented. Ultimately these calculations can be used to reduce total cost within the department. Participants will learn how to perform a cost of processing study and use the information to determine if costs can be reduced in one or more of three ways: 1) tray expiration/reprocessing costs, 2) price or amount of consumables used and 3) tray processing labor time optimization.	CS/SPD: 2 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Decontamination Attire	This module defines decontamination, describes bloodborne pathogens, and identifies which are of special concern to health care workers. "Exposure incidents" are defined and the use of appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) is described.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Flash Sterilization	Flash Sterilization continues to be a controversial topic. This ESP defines flash sterilization, lists reasons for the increased routine usage of this type of sterilization, details the criteria for how to do it properly, explains the concerns about routine flashing, and gives ideas on how routine flash sterilization may be reduced.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: In-Hospital Packaging Wrapping Methods	This module discusses two methods of wrapping, explores the continued rationale for using two sheets of wrap, and demonstrates the time-savings possible with simultaneous wrapping.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Low Temperature Sterilization	This module explores the low temperature technology alternatives to steam including ethylene oxide in its various forms, gas plasma, liquid chemical, and newer technologies in development.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Microbiology of Sterilization	This module defines sterilization in terms of healthcare facilities, describes the four phases of a microbe's life cycle, lists the factors which control the reproduction of microbes and identifies factors that can destroy them.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Package Cycle & Contamination Prevention	This module discusses the different demands put on packaging systems from preparing the contents to presentation at the surgical suite. Policy recommendations for handling the various stages of the package's cycle are provided. Wrap performance attributes required at each of these stages and options for test standards to compare and evaluate packaging performance at the various stages are discussed.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
ESP: Peel Pouches	This module reviews the functional requirements of peel pouches in sterilization: how to choose the right pouch for the appropriate sterilization method and how to properly pack, seal and label the pouches. Also discussed are proper methods of loading pouches into the sterilizing chamber, storing the sterile pouches, and proper opening and presentation techniques to maintain sterility of the contents.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Pouches vs. Wrap	This module discusses the two main packaging options in the hospital environment – pouches and wrap. Examples and rationale for the use of different materials and wrapping methods are provided. The factors that influence the most appropriate type of packaging are discussed. Also presented are the four questions to ask regarding aseptic opening of a sterile package.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Returning Reusable Sharps for Decontamination	This module focuses on OSHA requirements for the return of reusable sharps. Included is an explanation of which instruments are classified as reusable, the definition of decontamination and a clarification of the requirements for reusable sharps containers. Considerations for establishing a facility policy for transporting and decontaminating reusable sharps is presented.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Steam Sterilizer Loading	This module describes proper loading of the steam sterilizer and the elements which are necessary to assure proper sterilization of the load.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Wet Packs	This module defines a wet pack, discusses the various causes of a wet pack and dispels common myths. Also discussed are time and cost considerations that should be included in calculations addressing the reprocessing of wet pack contents. AAMI Recommended Practices are reviewed as well.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Wrap Tear Identification and Proper Handling Technique	This module describes tears, cuts, holes and abrasions that can compromise sterile package wrap and explores possible causes. Proper handling techniques which can prevent or mitigate wrap tearing are proposed. Discussions are specifically related to Kimberly-Clark wrap and are based on its unique material construction.	CS/SPD: 2 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide
ESP: Wrapping Trays for Sterilization	This educational module describes selection criteria for the purchase and use of wrapping material for hospital-wrapped items, and illustrates four common folding techniques including step by step directions.	CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD	Facilitated study guide

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Fire Safety in the Operating Room – Strategies for Keeping it Safe – Revised 2010	Fires in the operating room are always unexpected and can occur in a patient's airway, face, body surface, surgical wound, and perineal area – potentially resulting in severe pain, disfigurement and, in some cases, death. Injuries are not limited to patients alone; they may also involve healthcare personnel. Regardless of who sustains physical injury, all individuals involved in the incident can experience long-term emotional trauma. Many healthcare professionals do not recognize the potential for fire, are skeptical that the threat exists as so few happen each year, or simply believe it will not happen to them. However, the threat of fire is real, and preventing operating room fires is a patient safety imperative. Therefore, it is vital that each member of the perioperative team understand the causes of these events and follow appropriate fire safety practices.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Bus DVD/SG Faculty
Getting Your Hands Around Hand Hygiene	It has long been recognized that appropriate hand hygiene reduces the transmission of pathogenic microorganisms. In spite of this fact, overall compliance with hand hygiene guidelines continues to be suboptimal in healthcare facilities. Factors that contribute to this poor compliance include lack of knowledge, understaffing and overcrowding, poor access to handwashing facilities, irritant contact dermatitis of the hands and lack of organizational commitment to appropriate hand hygiene. The purpose of this educational program is to describe the role hands play in the transmission of microorganisms, identify appropriate indications and techniques for hand hygiene, and to discuss hand hygiene adherence rates as well as strategies to increase compliance with recommended hand hygiene practices in healthcare facilities.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board IACET: 0.1 (1.0 CH) *	Bus DVD Faculty Online *No IACET credit for Online
Guess Who's Coming to Surgery?	Surgical site infections (SSIs) are a major post-operative concern for all members of the surgical team. Peri-operative personnel play a critical role in the prevention of SSIs by assessing individual patient factors that may increase the patient's risk of a surgical site infection and planning appropriate interventions to reduce the risk. In this program, patient risk factors for SSIs and risk reduction strategies will be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 AST* IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online *ST credit for Online format only

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Have Bug, Will Travel: An Infection in Transit	Despite the best efforts of healthcare facilities to maintain a clean and safe environment, contact transfer of harmful microorganisms appears to be inevitable. Studies have shown that in rooms of patients who were colonized or infected, 70% of environmental surfaces were contaminated with potentially harmful microorganisms, and 65 % of healthcare worker's gowns were contaminated after delivering routine morning care to patients with MRSA. This educational program will review the current threat of healthcare-associated infections [HAI] and the major routes of microbial transmission with emphasis on contact transmission. Strategies used to prevent contact transmission of HAIs will also be discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Faculty
How New Technologies and Practices Will Impact Patient Safety	Keeping updated on the application of information technology advances can improve personnel performance and directly impact patient care by shifting priorities from financial management to optimizing clinical and operational performance thereby creating a safer patient environment. The presenter addresses the driving forces for patient safety in the future and focuses on the role of information technology as it applies to electronic medical records (EMR), computerized provider order entry, robotic automation, telemedicine, integrated medical devices, bar coding, radiofrequency identification systems, and new facility construction. The purpose of this educational activity is to present the future benefits of information technology that improve patient safety and quality of care and increase efficiencies.	Nurses: 1.25 CH CA Board RT: 1 CRCE AARC* IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online *No RT credit for Online
Influenza: a Seasonal and Pandemic Threat	This program provides an update on the importance of annual outbreaks of influenza and the chances of a pandemic that would overwhelm medical facilities and personnel. The virology of influenza will be presented, and the physical and financial impact of influenza, the complications associated with influenza, the symptoms of infection and influenza diagnostics will be addressed as well. Also, the vaccination preparation process will be discussed as will the efficacy of current treatment by M2 and Neurominidase inhibitors. A brief summation of the next pandemic virus that has the potential to quickly impact the world will also be presented.	Nurses: 1.25 CH CA Board IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online

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Microaspiration and the Risk of VAP: Endotracheal Tube Considerations	The purpose of this self-study activity is to highlight the role of microaspiration in the development of VAP in the ICU to minimize the incidence of VAP in mechanically ventilated patients. There is increasing evidence that microaspiration of contaminated orpharyngeal and gastroesophageal secretions in the airways of intubated and mechanically ventilated patients is implicated in the pathogenesis of ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP). The incidence and mortality rates of VAP in intensive care units are increasing despite improvements in antimicrobial therapy and use of a variety of preventive measures. Physicians, critical care nurses, advanced practice nurses, infection control specialists, and all healthcare professionals who treat intubated and mechanically ventilated patients need to make well informed and evidence-based decisions to provide quality patient care. This course initially will focus on the impact of intubation on normal body defenses and explore how microaspiration contributes to tracheal colonization and the pathogenesis of VAP. Risk factors for microaspiration and VAP in adult and pediatric mechanically ventilated patients will be addressed. Evidence-based guidelines from the ATS, IDSA and the CDC for the prevention and management of VAP will be summarized and supplemented with recommendations for minimizing microaspiration and VAP. The recent SHEA/IDSA compendium of strategies for prevention of hospital acquired infections will be featured.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Online
MRSA: Time for Action	Some strains of *Staphylococcus aureus,* an organism commonly found in human body flora, have built up immunity to numerous antibiotics including penicillinase-resistant penicillins such as methicillin. These strains are now referred to as Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* or MRSA. This program addresses the growing prevalence of MRSA, risk factors for the patient, modes of transmission, and strategies to reduce or eliminate its transmission.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 AST* RT: 1CRCE AARC**	Bus DVD/SG Online *ST credit for Online format only **No RT credit for Online
Optimizing Post-Operative Wound Healing	The prevention of suboptimal wound healing has been a major influence in the design of operating rooms, equipment, drapes and staff apparel. This program reviews how foreign debris interferes with optimal post-operative wound healing and discusses the strategies to reduce this risk.	Nurses: 1.1 CH ANCC	Bus DVD

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Oral Care is Critical Care	Along with other patient care interventions in the VAP prevention bundle, comprehensive oral care has been identified as significantly protecting patients from developing this lethal complication. This program will review the risk factors and consequences of VAP, identify the pathway to pneumonia in the hospitalized patient, describe the role of the oral environment in the development of VAP and review recommended oral care interventions and studies which examine the current state of oral care practice.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Bus DVD
Pandemic Influenza: Perspective, Preparation, Protection, Personal Preparedness	An explanation of what makes Influenza A the most probable of Pandemic threats will be presented, utilizing the 2009-H1N1 and other pandemic strains in their historic context. There exists a tremendous amount of misinformation about how influenza is transmitted and how you can protect yourself and your patients from infection. This course will discuss the roles(or not!) of large droplet, droplet nuclei and touch transfer in the spread of influenza. The importance of reservoir disruption, personnel preparation, personal protective equipment and best practices will also be addressed. Practical recommendations will be described that can readily be put into practice by every hospital employee to help contain pandemic threats.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST RT: 1 CRCE AARC IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Faculty
Pressure Ulcers in the Surgical Patient	Medical personnel are challenged with preventing skin injury in the perioperative environment due to prolonged periods of patient immobility, compromised circulatory function under anesthesia, and pre-existing conditions of many surgical patient populations. While great strides have been made in protecting the patient from skin injury, it is an issue that still needs to be considered and addressed. These skin injuries may result in extended hospital stay, increased medical costs, and prolonged morbidity. The healthcare facility may also incur costly financial and legal ramifications from these injuries. In addition to skin tears and burns, pressure ulcers, or pressure injuries, are another type of skin injury. They are defined as any lesion caused by unrelieved pressure resulting in damage of underlying tissue. Pressure ulcers, frequently identified in long term care environments, are also referred to as bedsores, decubitus ulcers, trophic ulcers3 or ischemic ulcers. In order to identify best practices that will assist in preventing or reducing pressure ulcers, healthcare professionals need to understand the pathophysiology of these injuries, be able to properly distinguish the types of injuries that occur, and understand the associated risk factors.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Independent study guide

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Preventing Pressure Ulcers in Surgical Patients	Medical personnel are challenged with preventing pressure ulcers in the peri-operative environment due to prolonged periods of patient immobility, compromised circulatory function, and preexisting conditions of many surgical patient populations. While great strides have been made in protecting the patient, peri-operatively acquired pressure ulcers continue to occur. These skin injuries may result in extended hospital stays, increased medical costs, and prolonged morbidity. The healthcare facility may also incur costly financial and legal ramifications from these injuries. In this education program, the impact of surgical pressure ulcers, contributing factors for their development, and prevention strategies will be discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Faculty
Preventing the Spread of Airborne Infections	The ease with which airborne viruses can be acquired and transmitted has been highlighted in the media by viral outbreaks such as SARS and influenza. This program identifies appropriate precautions to be implemented when airborne pathogens are suspected, discusses situations which require airborne isolation precautions, describes the use of medical respirators, and explains ways to avoid the spread of infection from contaminated protective apparel.	RT: 1.3 CRCE AARC	DVD
Preventing Wrong Site, Wrong Procedure, Wrong Person Surgery	Preventing wrong site surgery is a patient safety imperative. A clear understanding of this issue as well as the proactive measures needed to reduce the risk of surgical error is essential for today's healthcare professional. In this educational program, contributing factors associated with wrong site, wrong procedure, wrong person surgery will be reviewed and measures to prevent these errors will be discussed. Actions to be taken if a surgical error occurs and essential ongoing activities to prevent errors will be addressed. Since this program was first produced in 2007, the Universal Protocol has undergone annual review and modification as part of the Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals. An addendum, The Universal Protocol – An Update, has been included in this version that describes updates to the Universal Protocol and identifies resources for Universal Protocol compliance.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Bus DVD
Respiratory Protection: Masks versus Respirators	Throughout history respiratory diseases such as pneumonic plague, smallpox, tuberculosis and pandemic flu have had a profound impact on worldwide morbidity and mortality. Advances in respiratory protection have contributed towards an effective means to control and prevent the spread of these diseases. It must be emphasized, however, that the effectiveness of this respiratory protection whether it be a face mask or respirator is dependent upon appropriate selection and use. The purpose of this educational program is to review the impact of droplet and airborne transmission of infectious diseases, describe types of respiratory protection used by healthcare personnel, identify appropriate respiratory protection for droplet and airborne precautions, and to discuss appropriate wearing and use of respiratory protection.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CE AST IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	DVD Faculty

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SCIP: Surgical Care Improvement Project	This specific presentation on the Surgical Care Improvement Project (SCIP) will benefit physicians and infection control specialists seeking guidance on the current status of SCIP initiatives by addressing prophylactic antibiotic issues, performance measures for surgical infection prevention, and public accountability programs to increase the quality of healthcare for surgical patients. This is a videotaped presentation enhanced with synchronized audio recordings and PowerPoint slides and includes a post-test and a course assessment to evaluate the value of this learning experience.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 AST* IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online *ST credit for Online format only
Search and Destroy: Eliminating Pathogens in the Patient Care Environment	Between 1840 and 1870, tremendous strides were made towards preventing devastating infections in hospitalized patients. It was recognized that hand antisepsis together with cleaning and disinfection of the patient's environment were critical to optimal outcomes. Death rates dropped precipitously. As the decades passed through the next 100 years, improved hospital design, air filtration and especially the discovery of antibiotics all lead to the globally voiced conviction that most infections would be prevented and those that did occur could readily and successfully be treated. With the dramatic reduction in the incidence and severity of infections occurring and the general routine hygienic design of hospitals, the focus on the importance of the environment as a significant contributing factor to infection waned. This perceived lack of the importance of environmental contamination along with reduced resources, increasingly vulnerable patients, more virulent and persistent pathogens and the increasing prevalence of antibiotic resistance demands we reassess the importance of environmental contamination as a contributor to nosocomial infections. In this course, we will discuss evidence supporting the importance of this area of concern, the pathogens most likely to be transmitted via surface contamination and the best methods of successfully attacking these reservoirs for pathogen transmission.	Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board IACET: 0.2 (2 CH)	Faculty
Strategies for Reducing Surgical Site Infections: An Overview	Serious patient consequences have been attributed to surgical site infections including complicated recovery, required ICU care, extended hospital stay, need for readmission and, in some cases, death. These consequences come at a high cost to the patient, healthcare providers and to healthcare facilities. Measures to reduce surgical site infections are imperative in order to avoid these consequences. This program will address the impact of surgical site infections and the primary risk factors associated with their occurrence. Strategies to reduce surgical site infections will be reviewed and discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Faculty

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Strategies for the Diagnosis of VAP with Expanded Description of Blind Bronchoalveolar Lavage (Mini-BAL) Methods	The major goals of any management strategy for patients with true Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia (VAP) are early diagnosis, then adequate doses of the correct antibiotic while avoiding overuse. The use of the wrong antibiotic can have dire consequences. Excessive use or overuse of antibiotics may allow multiple drug resistant strains of pathogens to evolve. According to Chastre, the only way to accomplish these goals is to follow these three steps: 1. Obtain a lower respiratory tract sample for culture and microscopy before introduction of new antibiotics. 2. Immediately start broad spectrum empiric antimicrobial treatment unless signs of sepsis are absent and microscopy is negative. 3. Re-evaluate treatment on day 2 or 3 based upon pathogen identification and clinical outcomes. This document discusses the various methods used in the diagnosis of VAP identifying the advantages and disadvantages of each approach. In addition, the recently introduced Blind Bronchoalveolar Lavage (mini-BAL) method is described in detail.	RT: 1.5 CRCE AARC	Independent study guide
Strategies to Prevent & Control Multidrug-Resistant Organisms	In the prevention, management, and treatment of diseases caused by microorganisms that are resistant to antimicrobial agents, it is imperative to understand the different strategies to prevent and control multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs). An overview of MDRO challenges: emergence and transmission of MDROs; control and management of MDROs, and strategies to reduce transmission of MDROs will be discussed during this presentation. The purpose of this educational activity is to focus attention on the growing challenge of MDROs in healthcare and the importance of reducing their transmission.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board RT: 1 CRCE AARC* IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online *No RT credit for Online
Strike Force: Preventing Transmission When Pandemic Flu Hits Your Hospital	There is a tremendous amount of misinformation about how influenza is transmitted, and how you can protect yourself and your patients from infection. This course, will discuss the roles (or not!) of large droplets, droplet nuclei and surface contamination in the spread of influenza. Scientific studies along with the epidemiology of actual patient and healthcare provider infections will be presented as we explore diversity of pathways. Reservoir disruption activities and the appropriate personal protective equipment will be addressed. Practical recommendations will be described that can readily be put into practice by every hospital employee and could help contain an influenza outbreak threat.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Surgical Gowns: Selection and Best Practices for Protection	In the perioperative practice environment, prevention of infection for both surgical patients and healthcare workers is an overriding goal. The appropriate selection and use of surgical gowns is a key component in infection control strategies. Therefore, perioperative personnel must be knowledgeable about the key considerations in selecting and using gowns effectively in the surgical practice setting. This continuing education activity will provide an overview of the key considerations in the selection and use of surgical gowns and a protective measure for both patients and staff. It will review the five criteria used in the selection of surgical gowns: barrier protection, flammability resistance, low linting, abrasion resistance, and comfort. The curious types of materials used in the manufacture of surgical gowns, as well as industry tests will be discussed. Best practices in the donning, use, and removal of surgical gowns will be explored. Upon completion of this continuing education activity, the participant should be able to: identify five criteria for the selection of surgical gowns, describe selection criteria for surgical gowns, and discuss best practices for surgical gown protection.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online
Surgical Site Infections: The Patient Factor	Surgical site infections (SSIs) are a major post-operative concern for all members of the surgical team. Perioperative personnel play a critical role in the prevention of SSIs by assessing individual patient factors that may increase the patient's risk of a surgical site infection and planning appropriate interventions to reduce the risk. In this program, patient risk factors for SSI and risk reduction strategies will be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH ANCC	Faculty
The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals: Focus on Infection Prevention	The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) are developed and revised annually on the basis of reported near misses, sentinel events, and other patient care areas of concern. The NPSGs established for hospitals and ambulatory care facilities contain one goal that has immediate implications for healthcare professionals. The goal: reduce the risk of healthcare-associated infections. The purpose of this educational program is to identify the Joint Commission's NPSGs for Hospitals and Ambulatory Health Care, review the requirements for Goal 7 (Reduce the Risk of Healthcare-Associated Infections), and discuss implications of these requirements for healthcare professionals.	Nurses: 2.0 CH CA Board CS/SPD: 1 CH CBSPD ST: 2.0 CH AST IACET: 0.2 (2 CH)	Faculty

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
The Joint Commission's National Patient Safety Goals: Implications for the Infection Preventionist	Since 2003, the Joint Commission has annually developed and revised National Patient Safety Goals (NPSGs) based on reported near misses, sentinel events and other patient care areas of concern. The 2009 NPSGs established for hospitals and ambulatory care facilities contain one goal that has immediate implications for Infection Preventionists. The goal: REDUCE THE RISK OF HEALTH CARE-ASSOCIATED INFECTIONS. This revised goal has introduced three new requirements that address the prevention of health care-associated infections due to multidrug-resistant organisms, central line-associated bloodstream infections, and surgical site infection. The objectives of this online are: to identify the Joint Commission's 2009 NPSGs for Hospitals and Ambulatory Health Care, to review the requirements for Goal 7 (Reduce the Risk of Health Care-Associated Infections), and to discuss implications of these requirements for Infection Preventionists.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online
The New Clostridium difficile: Pathogenicity, Complications, Prevention	In the US, Clostridium difficile occurs in about 3 million individuals annually, of whom approximately 500,000 require hospitalization and 15,000 die. Since 2004, there has been a dramatic incline in the incidence, disease severity, antibiotic resistance and mortality associated with C. difficile infections. This has been attributed to the ubiquitous use of antibiotics, an upward trend in antacid therapies, and the emergence of three new C. difficile strains: 027, 017 and 078. This course will discuss the pathogenic attributes of these new superbugs and present best methods for preventing nosocomial transmission. The importance of eliminating pathogen reservoirs and of asking the appropriate questions when selecting and preparing disinfectants will also be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST RT: 1 CRCE AARC IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Faculty
The Nurse's Role in the Diagnosis of VAP	Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is recognized as a major cause of increased morbidity and mortality in the ICU patient population. The critical care nurse plays a key role in the early recognition and accurate diagnosis of VAP. The purpose of this program is to review current VAP diagnostic strategies and nursing responsibilities in recognizing early patient signs, symptoms of VAP and diagnostic pathways to expedite treatment and recovery.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Online

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The Selection and Care of Enteral Feeding Tubes	Enteral nutrition is indicated for individuals with a functioning gastrointestinal tract whose oral nutrient intake is insufficient to meet estimated needs. In order to achieve optimal outcomes for patients who require enteral feeding, it is essential that healthcare professionals, indeed all caregivers of these patients, have a good understanding of the selection process as well as appropriate patient care required to prevent complications associated with enteral feeding tubes. The purpose of this educational activity is to discuss disease states that require enteral feeding, and to review the types of tubes used as well as the complications associated with the use of enteral feeding tubes. Nursing interactions to prevent and manage complications are also addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	Bus DVD Faculty
Transmission Precautions: Are You Wearing the Right Face Mask	Throughout history diseases such as pneumonic plague, smallpox, tuberculosis and pandemic flu have had a profound impact on worldwide morbidity and mortality. Advances in respiratory protection have contributed towards an effective means to control and prevent the spread of these and other diseases transmitted via droplets and droplet nuclei. It must be emphasized however that the effectiveness of this respiratory protection – whether it be a facemask or respirator – is dependent upon appropriate selection, donning, wearing, and removal. In this program, the impact of droplet and airborne transmission of infectious diseases and the types of respiratory protection used in healthcare will be discussed. The appropriate selection, wearing and use of respiratory protection will also be addressed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online
Unique Characteristics of *Clostridium difficile*, its Complications, and Strategies Required for its Prevention	*Clostridium difficile* is recognized as one of the most serious healthcare-associated infections occurring around the world today. Associated infections may be mild and resolve fairly rapidly after antibiotic cessation, or may be severe, lingering and life-threatening. Emergence of a new strain, increased virulence of the old pathogen, trending patient vulnerabilities, altered healthcare practices, new reservoirs, are all contributing to the aggressive success of this not-so-glamorous superbug. The purpose of this educational program is to discuss the impact of Clostridium difficile and to describe best practices and new technologies designed to prevent its transmission.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board	Online
Unplanned Hypothermia & the Surgical Patient – Revised 2010	Unplanned hypothermia is a common occurrence in surgical patients. Complications associated with unplanned hypothermia include wound infections, cardiac dysfunction, coagulopathy, altered drug metabolism, delayed recovery to normothermia, and increased mortality in trauma patients. The purpose of this educational program is to review the causes and complications associated with unplanned hypothermia. The benefits of normothermia as well as recommended practices to maintain normothermia and prevent unplanned hypothermia will also be described.	Nurses: 1.0 CH CA Board ST: 1.0 CH AST IACET: 0.1 (1 CH)	DVD Faculty

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Title	Description	CE Credit	Format
Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia: Reducing the Risk	Hospital-acquired pneumonia, which can be prevented, is the leading cause of healthcare-associated infections among mechanically ventilated patients in the ICU. This program describes the epidemiology and microbiology of VAP. Risk factors and prevention strategies are also discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH APIC RT: 1 CRCE AARC	Bus DVD/SG
Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia: Strategies for Prevention and Diagnosis	Ventilator-associated pneumonia (VAP) is a serious complication of mechanical ventilation that increases the risk of patient morbidity and mortality. It has been reported that patients on continuous ventilation are as much as 21 times more likely to develop pneumonia than non-intubated patients. The endotracheal tube interferes with patient defenses as well as with reflexes that would normally prevent direct pathogen access to the lungs. This educational program will describe why ventilated patients are susceptible to pneumonia and review strategies that will reduce the occurrence of VAP. Positive and negative aspects of VAP diagnostic procedures will also be discussed.	Nurses: 1.0 CH APIC	Faculty