An Official Journal of The Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of America

INFECTION CONTROL AND HOSPITAL EPIDEMIOLOGY®

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Introducing the be of catheter-relat ARROWg ard **. The first and only central vent

Complications due to catheterrelated bacteremia are medically unacceptable when the causes are preventable. And in today's health-care climate, the monetary cost of treating nosocomial infection versus the cost of prevention is similarly unacceptable.

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There is no question that central venous catheterization (CVC) represents a significant medical advancement, particularly in treatment of the critically ill. However, with increased usage there is an increased risk of CVC-related infection.

The reported frequency of intravascular device-associated bacteremia is between 0.2% and 0.5% for IV peripheral catheters, up to 7.0% for central parenteral nutrition catheters—*and from* 3.8% to 12.0% forcentral venous catheters.² In short, 80% to 90% of each year's cases of intravascular-related bloodstream infection arise from the use of CVCs.³ Moreover, a 10% to 20% case fatality rate has been associated with catheterrelated bacteremia?

In an address to

Third International Conference on Nosocomial Infections, Dr. Dennis Maki stated that onethird of nosocomial infections are preventable, especially the 50,000 cases a year that develop from CVCs. Some 80% of these catheter-related infections arise from bacteria found on the skin that migrate down the catheter track, Dr. Maki noted.

Awareness is, of course, part of the battle. But more ammunition is needed. And that's why we developed ARROWg'ard".

More infection control means more financial control In a study published in 1988 reporting 1986 results, Hampton and Sheretz determined that nosocomial infection added a mean of seven days to a normal hospital stay and *increased the cost by a mean of more than \$6,000!*

⁵ An additional downside: Medicare reimburses very little of the cost if a hospital stay is extended to treat bacteremia.

When you add the increases in cost since these studies were made, the economic impact of CVC-related infection is even more severe. And while new drugs to fight septic infections offer hope of better management in some crisis cases, the extreme costs pose a clinical dilemma for caregivers.

But ARROWg ard " can help reverse those spiraling figures.

Let's say that a hospital places 500 multi-lumen CVCs a year, If the infection rate is 4%, 20 infections result. By



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sinning of the end edbacteremia. s catheters with built-in infection protection.

bringing the infection rate down to 2%, 10 cases would be avoided-and, at the figure of \$6,000 per case for added hospitalization, the added cost for infection

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even after subtracting the catheter cost. Even ore important than the economics, potentially, lives may be saved.' Further, you must consider the unnecessary expenditure of time and energy on the part of your staff and the trauma and suffering of the patient.

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¹Kleier, OJ and Averbach, RE Glutaraldehyde nonbiologic monitors Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol 11 (8):439-441 (1990)

²Raczmarek, RG, Moore, RM, McCrohan, J, Goldmann, DA, Reynolds, C, Caquelin, C, and Israel, E. Multi-Slate Investigation of the Actual Disinfection/Sterilization of Endoscopes in Health Care Facilities. Am J Med 92:257-261 (311992)

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