Infection Flag Audits of Adult Emergency Services

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Background

- The emergency departments (ED) are fast paced, and the census is often very high with rooms, triage, and waiting rooms filled to or past capacity
- Patients can have indistinct symptoms and without diagnosis when they present to the EDs
- To minimize the risk of exposure to infection organisms, many protocols are in place:
  - Communicable disease screening questions
  - Infection flags (from previous visits, i.e. multidrug resistant organisms, immunosuppressed status, etc.)
  - Automatic infection flags when certain tests are ordered (Respiratory Panel, GI Panel)
  - Alerts in the electronic medical record (EMR) when updates to transmission-based precautions are needed
- If a transmission-based precaution is not ordered in the EMR, there is not a way to determine if proper precaution guidance was followed and can lead to:
  - Potential patient and staff exposures within the EDs and other departments within the hospital
  - Additional work with calls to patients and their families, testing of patients, and testing of staff

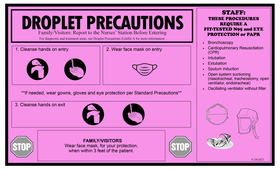
Aims

- To determine if a precaution is being posted outside of patient space for patients with infection flags, if the precaution ordered in the EMR matches the posting outside patient space, and which precaution is the most missed

Methods

- Prior to rounding in the ED, all the rooms with precautions ordered or suggested were noted from a report in the EMR
  - If precaution had been resolved or patient had moved/discharged between time of initial info gather and observation, then the observation was discarded
- Data included: day, shift, room number, bed type (room, bay, or hallway), precautions status outside the patient space, type or precautions outside the patient space, EMR precautions status and type, and correct precaution if needed
- R was used to analyze data and create tables/graphs



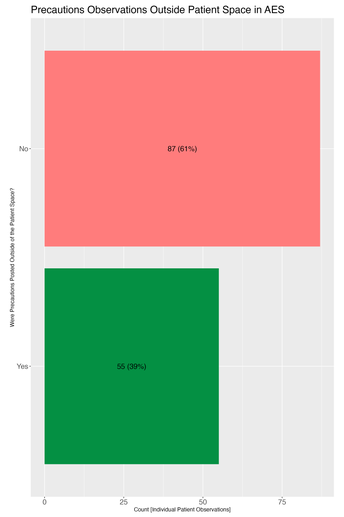


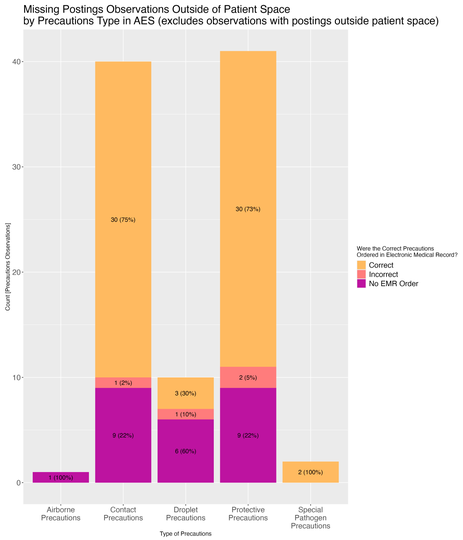


Results

Aim 1 : Are precautions posted outside the patient space?	Aim 2 : Do precautions outside the patient space match precautions ordered in the EMR?	Aim 3 : Which precaution is missed the most?
39% of the observations had a posting outside the patient space.	70% of the postings outside the patient space did correctly match their EMR precaution order. Only 27.3% of all the observations had a correct posting outside the patient space and correct EMR precaution order.	Lowest compliance of both posting outside the patient space and correct EMR precaution order : Airborne Precautions (0%, n=1) Second lowest compliance of both posting outside the patient space and correct EMR precaution order : Droplet Precautions (60%, n=9)

Results (cont.)





Proposed Solutions

- Contact the IPE department (Pager : 30032) with any questions or concerns regarding infection or isolation flags
- Adopt keeping precautions postings on a key loop that sits on a hook on the door or near the entrance to patient space.
- This could be also used in bays and hallway, and it would be easier for staff to flip to correct precaution rather than trying to slide a paper into a sleeve.

The authors have nothing to disclose